**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 18 – XXXIII WEEK O.T. [B]**

**“For the days are coming upon you when your enemies will raise a palisade against you; they will encircle you and hem you in on all sides. They will smash you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave one stone upon another within you because you did not recognize the time of your visitation."**

**Now Jesus is near Jerusalem. “As he drew near, he saw the city and wept over it.” Jesus weeps s He sees his end. He sees the town razed to the ground, his temple profaned and destroyed. His children dispersed throughout the world. To understand the weeping of Jesus, one should let himself be helped by a passage of the Book of Lamentations: “How lonely she is now, the once crowded city! Widowed is she who was mistress over nations; The princess among the provinces has been made a toiling slave. Bitterly she weeps at night, tears upon her cheeks, With not one to console her of all her dear ones; Her friends have all betrayed her and become her enemies. Judah has fled into exile from oppression and cruel slavery; Yet where she lives among the nations she finds no place to rest: All her persecutors come upon her where she is narrowly confined. The roads to Zion mourn for lack of pilgrims going to her feasts; All her gateways are deserted, her priests groan, Her virgins sigh; she is in bitter grief. Her foes are uppermost, her enemies are at ease; The LORD has punished her for her many sins. Her little ones have gone away, captive before the foe. Gone from daughter Zion is all her glory: Her princes, like rams that find no pasture, Have gone off without strength before their captors.** **Jerusalem is defiled; All who esteemed her think her vile now that they see her nakedness; She herself groans and turns away.** **"Come, all you who pass by the way, look and see Whether there is any suffering like my suffering, which has been dealt me When the LORD afflicted me on the day of his blazing wrath. "From on high he sent fire down into my very frame; He spread a net for my feet, and overthrew me. He left me desolate, in pain all the day.** **"He has kept watch over my sins; by his hand they have been plaited: They have settled about my neck, he has brought my strength to its knees.** **"At this I weep, my eyes run with tears: Far from me are all who could console me, any who might revive me; My sons were reduced to silence when the enemy prevailed." (cf. Lam 1, 1-22) Jerusalem weeps for his ruin, for the death of his best children, because it remains alone, afflicted, with no citizens. Jesus weeps for the grace wasted by the town. Actually, it is not the town that wasted the grace. Its chiefs have been the ones who prevented the water of grace from reaching each heart. Because of the sin of one, everyone perishes. Here are the words with which Jesus gives reason of his weeping: "If this day you only knew what makes for peace!” Jerusalem was given every grace to understand, to convert. Jesus has all done, has all said, has given every sign, has performed every miracle. But the chiefs, with devilish stubbornness, have opposed to each of his teaching. They even said He was possessed. “But now it is hidden from your eyes.” Here Jesus alludes to his glorious resurrection. Faith must be given to Him while He is on the cross. The cross is the place of the true faith. With the resurrection, Jesus is no longer visible. With the resurrection the place of faith is no longer Christ Jesus, his disciples are. Faith arises for their word. The way of faith will be the testimony of his Apostle tomorrow.**

**Let us read from the text of Lk 18, 41-44**

**As he drew near, he saw the city and wept over it, saying, "If this day you only knew what makes for peace - but now it is hidden from your eyes. For the days are coming upon you when your enemies will raise a palisade against you; they will encircle you and hem you in on all sides. They will smash you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave one stone upon another within you because you did not recognize the time of your visitation."**

**This is prophecy and it will infallibly be fulfilled. “For the days are coming upon you when your enemies will raise a palisade against you; they will encircle you and hem you in on all sides.” The destruction of the holy town is announced. This prophecy is infallible Word of truth. It will be fulfilled in each of its part. The prophecy is uttered today, but it will not be fulfilled today. Not even will it be fulfilled tomorrow. It is fulfilled on the day and at the time established by the heavenly Father. It must be said that every Word of Jesus is prophecy. It is infallibly be fulfilled. Jesus says it: “They will smash you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave one stone upon another.” What is the reason of this destruction and devastation? Because “You did not recognize the time of your visitation.” What is the theological reason hidden in the Word of Jesus? The reason is in the covenant of the Lord with his people. The earth is gif of God. It is given for a promise made to Abraham. One remains in it for faithfulness to the Covenant. The Covenant is established upon the commitment of always listening the voice of the Lord. Christ Jesus is voice of the living God. He is the living God. Having the town decided not to listen to its God, God cannot be its life. The destruction of Jerusalem is written in the Law of the Covenant. It is one of the curse announced by the Lord. "The LORD will raise up against you a nation from afar, from the end of the earth, that swoops down like an eagle, a nation whose tongue you do not understand, a nation of stern visage, that shows neither respect for the aged nor pity for the young. They will consume the offspring of your livestock and the produce of your soil, until you are destroyed; they will leave you no grain or wine or oil, no issue of your herds or young of your flocks, until they have brought about your ruin. They will besiege you in each of your communities, until the great, unscalable walls you trust in come tumbling down all over your land. They will so besiege you in every community throughout the land which the LORD, your God, has given you, that in the distress of the siege to which your enemy subjects you, you will eat the fruit of your womb, the flesh of your own sons and daughters whom the LORD, your God, has given you. The most refined and fastidious man among you will begrudge his brother and his beloved wife and his surviving children, any share in the flesh of his children that he himself is using for food when nothing else is left him in the straits of the siege to which your enemy will subject you in all your communities. The most refined and delicate woman among you, so delicate and refined that she would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground, will begrudge her beloved husband and her son and daughter the afterbirth that issues from her womb and the infant she brings forth when she secretly uses them for food for want of anything else, in the straits of the siege to which your enemy will subject you in your communities.” (Dt 28, 49-57)**

**Here is what the Lord says to Salomon upon the temple already consecrated: "I have heard the prayer of petition which you offered in my presence. I have consecrated this temple which you have built; I confer my name upon it forever, and my eyes and my heart shall be there always.** **As for you, if you live in my presence as your father David lived, sincerely and uprightly, doing just as I have commanded you, keeping my statutes and decrees, I will establish your throne of sovereignty over Israel forever, as I promised your father David when I said, 'You shall always have someone from your line on the throne of Israel.' But if you and your descendants ever withdraw from me, fail to keep the commandments and statutes which I set before you, and proceed to venerate and worship strange gods, I will cut off Israel from the land I gave them and repudiate the temple I have consecrated to my honor. Israel shall become a proverb and a byword among all nations, and this temple shall become a heap of ruins. Every passerby shall catch his breath in amazement, and ask, 'Why has the LORD done this to the land and to this temple?' Men will answer: 'They forsook the LORD, their God, who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt; they adopted strange gods which they worshiped and served. That is why the LORD has brought down upon them all this evil.'" (1Kg 1, 1-9) May the Mother of the Lord obtain for us the grace of believing that each Word of Jesus is infallibly fulfilled in time and in eternity. Amen.**