

## A WEEKLY WORD

### Readings for the week of Nov. 16/25:

Isaiah 12

Psalm 98

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Luke 21:5-19

For anyone who has lived for several decades or more, this world can seem almost unrecognizable at times compared to what was once familiar to us. When we read Luke 21: 9-11, it sounds very much like the world in which we live, when we read Jesus' words, *"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately."* Then he said to them, *"Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven."*

Then, in verse 12 of that passage, it says, *"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name."*

We are likely left wondering "God, what are You doing? You can stop all of this from happening, so, why aren't You?"

Then, we read on to verse 13, which gives us some insight into our questions. That verse says, *"This will give you an opportunity to testify."*

We can be encouraged by the fact that while these hard things are happening and will continue for a while, God has a purpose for our hardships, whatever they may be. That reminder gives us reason to trust Him. Isaiah 12:2 reminds us, *"Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid, for the LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation."*

Nehemiah 8:10 reminds us that *"the joy of the Lord is my strength"*.

So, in the midst of the troubles of this present age, Let's remember to do as we are told in Isaiah 12:4-6, which says, *"And you will say on that day: 'Give thanks to the LORD; call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is*

*exalted. Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.*

*Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."*