Balta Lelija

22 November 2026
24TH AND LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
"A Look at the Last Things"

Today is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. As usual, we will reflect on the Gospel according to the traditional calendar. Those who would prefer to hear a reflection on the Solemnity of Christ the King, which is celebrated today according to the Reformed calendar, will find the corresponding link at the end of the text.

Matt. 24:15–35

"So when you see the desolating sacrilege spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains; let him who is on the housetop not go down to take what is in his house; and let him who is in the field not turn back to take his mantle. And alas for those who are with child and for those who give suck in those days! Pray that your flight may not be in winter or on a sabbath. For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. And if those days had not been shortened, no human being would be saved; but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. Then if any one says to you, 'Lo, here is the Christ!' or 'There he is!' do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. Lo, I have told you beforehand. So, if they say to you, 'Lo, he is in the wilderness,' do not go out; if they say, 'Lo, he is in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of man. Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together. "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken; then will appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory; and he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not

pass away till all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
The last things! Are they still preached sufficiently today to awaken the faithful and also to convey the Lord's words to those who have not yet found faith? Could it be that people today are afraid to speak about these things lest they frighten others?

Yet the purpose of the text is not to make people fearful, but to point them to the profound seriousness of our existence, to the responsibility God has entrusted to us for the lives He has given us. These lives stand before God, who, in all his love and righteousness, knows exactly how to judge them. When we meet Him in the full light one day, there will be no more questions. Everything will be clear and unambiguous before us, and the hour of personal judgment will have come. May the Lord have mercy on humanity and may many more find their way to Jesus! As the Lamb of God, He allowed judgment to be carried out upon Himself to secure forgiveness of our sins.

Today's text points to the Lord's return, which will take place before everyone's eyes. Before that, however, it speaks of the abomination that will be set up in the holy place. Generally speaking, this likely refers to all wicked acts committed in the House of the Lord, desecrations of every kind, such as those carried out by the Romans when they set up idols in the temple in Jerusalem. Applied to our own time, which is drawing closer to the Lord's return, we must consider acts, both within and without the temple of the Church, that offend God.

The greatest abomination will occur at the end of time, when the Antichrist prepares to exercise his rule over all people in place of Christ and persecutes all those who do not submit to him or worship him. The "Son of Perdition," as Holy Scripture calls him, will represent the greatest perversion of a messianic Savior and will seduce people into falling away from God. In today's technological age, he will use every means at his disposal to track down and persecute his opponents.

These times will bring great confusion. Even before the Antichrist's reign, many false prophets and messiahs will arise to lead believers astray.

This makes it all the more important to hold fast to the words of Jesus and to the faith handed down by the Church: There can be no new Messiah, for the Messiah is the Lord Himself. Nor can there be any prophet who does not confess Jesus as the Messiah. He

alone is the Savior. Whoever seeks to lead people away from this faith or to relativize it is acting as a false prophet.

The Lord will return, and we must be ready. That is why the Lord gives us these prophecies, so that we may remember His words and remain faithful to them. "*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away*," Jesus emphasizes. They are the surest protection against all the tribulations that will come before His return, and in this faith we can confidently go to meet Him and be found as faithful workers in His vineyard.

Meditation on today's Gospel in the Novus Ordo (Solemnity of Christ the King)
https://en.elijamission.net/judged-in-love/