

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

**Saint Cecilia, Virgin, Martyr**

**It takes simplicity to trust and rely on one single thread of grace!**

## **Revelation 14:14-19**

John had his vision of the Parousia. In this vision, he saw one like the Son of Man reaping a fully ripe and rich harvest and the angel reaping those destined to be judged. Several symbols are used in this excerpt to describe the Parousia as God's judgment over the whole land rather than a few chosen people. Be confident and be faithful! God will gather in the good and faithful.

## **Psalm 96**

**Say among the nations: The Lord is king.  
He has made the world firm, not to be moved;  
He governs the peoples with equity.**

## **Luke 21:5-11**

Jesus had just pointed to a widow and her simple offering as an example and inspiration for all. The widow's simple gift involved great sacrifice. She gave out of her want and not from the surplus. Even as they listened to the call for simplicity, generosity and sacrifice, they could think only about the glory of the temple adorned with expensive stones and ornaments. The pillars of the porches in the temple were made of single blocks of white marble, forty feet high. The most famous among the ornaments was the great vine made of solid gold.

Their comment on the splendor of the temple moved Jesus to prophecy. He told them that these stones and ornaments would not endure. They would all be pulled down and destroyed. To the Jews it was unthinkable that the glory of the temple would be shattered to dust. Jesus called his listeners to be watchful and learn to read the signs of the time.

**Do not seek glory in things that do not last. Seek glory in the enduring and the lasting that are of God and from God!**

**Be alert! Stay awake! Be watchful! Read the sign of the times! Prayerfully listen and discern what God is saying to you now!**

## **Saint of the Day, November 22 - Saint Cecilia and 11 other saints are remembered this day.**

St. Cecilia was a young Roman Christian who made a vow of virginity (around second century). Her parents, however, insisted that she marry Valerian, a pagan. On her wedding night, she courageously told her new husband about her vow and that an angel was with her to protect her. Valerian was skeptical and told her he wanted proof of the angel. Cecilia sent him to the future Pope Urban. Valerian found Pope Urban and explained why Cecilia sent him. Pope Urban baptized Valerian, and when he returned to Cecilia, he saw an angel sitting beside her. So strong was Valerian's conversion that his brother Tibertius also wanted baptism. The brothers then began to serve Christ by burying Christians who were martyred.

Cecilia spent her time preaching the Word of God, and she converted up to 400 persons. Eventually, the brothers were arrested and put to death for refusing to worship pagan gods. Cecilia buried them, and she, too, was soon arrested and was to die for her faith. The official ordered her death by suffocating heat in her own bathhouse. That attempt failed. Then the official ordered the executioner to decapitate her. The executioner struck Cecilia's neck three times, but he could not completely sever her head. He left her on the floor, bleeding profusely. She lived like that for three days before she died. Cecilia was declared a saint by the early Christians because of her martyrdom. Cecilia is the patron saint of musicians.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs