

Cross of Hope Making Faith Connections Small Group Ministry

November 16, 2025

23rd Sunday after Pentecost (Lectionary 33)

Say What!? – the end is near

15 Minutes **Gathering and Check-in ... *share where you've encountered God this week.***

Prayer O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (ELW p47)

45 Minutes **Introduction:** The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right." (from Sundays and Seasons)

Discussion Questions:

Read again Luke 21:5-19

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

What is challenging or confusing as you read/hear it this time - *Say What!?*

How does your faith help you 'interpret the times'?

What are ways that you draw strength from your relationship with God?

How has that helped during challenging or confusing times?

When has God given you words to speak when you didn't know what to say?

How does your faith help you to endure and why is endurance a trait of faith?

How do you tend to the trait of endurance in faith?

Read again Malachi 4:1-2a

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

How are these verses radical hope for troubled times?

What would you do if you knew the day when the fullness of God comes?

Read again 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?

How do we work for one another in faith?

How can this passage both be offered as encouragement to faithful living and abused to cast judgment?

Read and reflect on Psalm 98 if you'd like.

20 Minutes **Prayer Requests and Prayer**

10 Minutes **Wrap Up and Get Ready to Leave Session**