



# The Shepherd's Voice

November 13, 2012

By Fr. Joe Rees

## “Abomination of Desolation”

“But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”

Mark 13:14 (and following passage assigned for this coming Sunday)

This passage comes from a series of proclamations made by our Lord Jesus which we commonly call ‘end-times’ narratives. Wars and rumors of wars, nations rising against nations, false prophets, chaos, evil activities and the like will all come upon the peoples of the earth. Our good Shepherd is warning us to receive the Kingdom of God while we have the opportunity. In fact, the verse just before this one says, “This Gospel (Good News) of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.”(v. 13). Something will happen rapidly and devastatingly, such that people will not be prepared or have the time to go back and get their coats (v. 18). Nursing women are pitied as they will not be able to escape with their young innocents. There will be great tribulation and as verse 27 says, “For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west (all across the sky), so will the coming of the Son of Man be.” Son of Man is a title for God’s One and Only Son Jesus, the Christ, the Messiah. Before He comes, we must be ready! We must decide now to believe in Jesus Christ!

If there is no time to do anything about it, why should we worry? Why should we prepare? First, our hearts and souls need the preparation of training in righteousness that comes in following as disciples of Jesus. Then, He will know us, His faithful ones, who are following Him at that time! If we don’t prepare, will He know us? There won’t be any time for excuses at that time. Now is the

time to prepare by worshipping the Lord Jesus, making Him “No. 1” in your life!

Think about recent tribulations. These would be considered minor by comparison. The hurricane that hit the east coast in New York, New Jersey, and surrounding areas is devastating. Tens of thousands of people are still without power. They are devastated. There just isn’t enough help to go around. The Red Cross is trying. Relief agencies including Anglican Relief and Development are trying. But, people are homeless, hungry, cold, and weary from the trauma of desolation they are experiencing and continuing to fight through. Or, another image, the warfare in Syria where over 30,000 now are dead and tens of thousands are refugees into Turkey due to a vile despot turning the military on his own people. The world is just sitting by and watching this horror. I could recount several other atrocities in the world today but by comparison the “abomination of desolation” is incredibly worse, as the Scripture says, “For those days will be a time of tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never will.”(v. 19) God will have to “shorten those days” for us who believe. False christs will arise and deceive many (v. 22), performing signs and wonders, and leading any astray, even the believers (elect). Jesus simply says, “Do not believe it!” Why? Because all of us will know it when the real Jesus comes again...power and great glory! And, His angels will come and gather us to be taken up into heaven with Him!!

So, what about this “abomination of desolation” then? Notice that Jesus speaks of this as a “he” ‘standing where he ought not to be’. It’s the real ‘anti-Christ’. The relevant passages in Daniel 9: 25-27 and Matt. 24: 15 speak to this being Jerusalem and its destruction. Whether this is yet to come or has already happened no one really knows, but, imagine

a horrific destruction of Jerusalem by Iran and surrounding neighbors who want to annihilate Israel in our day? Iran is war-gaming right now as I write. They have threatened to wipe Israel off the face of the map. Syria is unchecked in its powerful repression of ‘freedom fighters’. Israel is alone in its defense. Will we see the President of Iran ‘standing’ upon a crumbled temple in Jerusalem on TV in the winter of 2013? Millions will flee, tens of thousands will die. Pray that it won’t be. What will we be able to do? Prepare now by knowing Jesus your Lord! Let your hearts and souls engage with His Spirit, to be known by the Lord Jesus, really known. Receive His Body & Blood in Holy Communion Sunday by Sunday. Also, prepare now for physical disaster needs. The folks in Staten Island, NY didn’t think they needed food and water for a week five days before the hurricane hit. Prepare now for what ultimately is the coming of

the Lord and we will be ready for our eternity, even if we have to go through trials and tribulations!

Are you ready to meet Jesus face to face?!

I pray we are all ready here at Grace Anglican and that in worshipping week by week we are getting to know the real Jesus who will one day say to each of us, “Ah, yes, I know you and love you...come into My Kingdom prepared for you!”

May the Lord guide and direct us in the coming months to look to Him as our Savior and our Lord. Daily, be with Jesus and trust Him alone!

Love in Christ,  
Fr. Joe

**Sunday Servers this week...**

November 18, 2012	Proper 28	8:00 a.m. Service	10:15 a.m. Service
First Reader	Daniel 12:1-13	Robbin Gates	Stephen Painter
Psalm Reader	Psalm 16	Choir	Judy Gillease
Second Reader	Hebrews 10_31-39	Nancy White	Pat Seelig
Intercessor		Acolyte	Acolyte
Lay Euch. Ministers		Jane Rost, Jackie Lansing	Cline Handy, KC Winward
Acolytes		Rob Ackerman	Fiona K (C); Zachary J (T1); Dasiahmarie V (T2)
Welcomers		Paula Sholly, Myrna Lipnicke	Margaret Olson, Jeanne Shannon
Ushers		Dick Sholly, Chris Corey	Dink Nash, Ted Vallas, JR Fox, Ted Vallas
Vestry Person of Day	Jane Rost		
Healing Ministers		Robbin Gates, Rudy Theobald	Chris Kilby, Connie Fowle, Jane Rost, Petey Seibold
Announcer		Jani Dubski	JR Fox

Come join us at  
**Shakey’s**  
4141 Oceanside Blvd.

For a Fund Raising Pizza Night  
to benefit  
Grace Anglican Church  
Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Bring your family and friends. Shakey’s will donate 25% of the menu price of any food purchase we make to help support our Children’s Ministries. If you have a hectic schedule, you can still help because take-out orders count too.

**Soaking Prayer**  
Wednesday  
November 14  
6:30 p.m.

Volunteer to help with the Shopping Day for the military families – Nov. 17<sup>th</sup> 10 to 3. Rock the babies, play games with young children, read a story, help with the snacks, help with lunch, help with ...Let’s make this a place where these young parents can drop their children off while they do some Christmas shopping for their children.

## Sunday at Grace

8:00 a.m. – Traditional service  
with Choir  
9:30 a.m. – Coffee & Adult Forum  
10:00 a.m. – Nursery opens  
10:15 a.m. – Family Service  
With Worship Team  
10:15 a.m. – Children's Church

Thanksgiving Dinner at Grace  
Noon on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
Thanksgiving Service  
at 10:00 a.m.  
Stay for dinner with your church  
family. Sign- sheets are on the  
bulletin board outside the office.

## Readings for Sunday

Daniel 12:1-13  
Psalm 16  
Hebrews 1-:31-39  
Mark 13:14-23

We are using the English Standard  
Version of the Bible and the Lectionary  
from the Book of Common Prayer (Year B)

### This Week at Grace –Nov. 13- Nov. 20

#### Tues. November 13

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study – Isaiah  
4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at the Oasis  
6:30 p.m. Potluck Fellowship Dinner  
7:15 p.m. "Christianity Explored"

#### Wed November 14

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer  
9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting  
6:30 p.m. Youth Group  
6:30 p.m. Soaking Prayer at Grace

#### Thurs. November 15

7:00 a.m. – Bible Study  
8:00 a.m. Clergy Meeting  
10-Noon Play Group  
11:30 a.m. Healing Eucharist – Oasis  
3:30 p.m. Alpha Club  
6:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

#### Fri. November 16

Fr. Joe's Day Off  
6:00 p.m. Evening Prayer and Healing at Grace

#### Sat. November 17

8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study  
10-3 Child Care for Military Families

#### Sun. November 18

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Choir  
9:30 a.m. Coffee & Adult Forum  
10:00 a.m. Nursery opens  
10:15 a.m. Family Service with Worship Team  
10:15 a.m. Children's Church

#### Mon. November 19

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer

#### Tues. November 20

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study at Grace  
4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at the Oasis  
No Teaching tonight

### Rector's Bible Study

Tuesdays  
11:30 a.m.

Fr. Joe is leading the group through a study of  
the Book of Isaiah. Everyone is welcome.  
B.Y.O.L. (Bring your own lunch)

**Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.**  
**Morning Prayer At Grace Anglican**  
**All are welcome to attend.**

**Weekly** – There are over 25 small groups meeting  
during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of  
all the groups or you can find the list on our website:  
[www.graceanglicanchurch.com](http://www.graceanglicanchurch.com).

## Save the date!

Nov. 14 Br. Benno's Team serves  
Nov. 14 Soaking Prayer  
Nov. 17 Military Outreach – Childcare for shoppers.  
Nov. 18 Turn in your Angel Tree gifts  
Nov. 20 No teaching or potluck tonight  
Nov. 22 Thanksgiving service at 10:00 a.m.  
Nov. 22 Thanksgiving dinner at Grace – 11:30 a.m.  
Nov. 25 Fund raiser for Grace at Shakey's Pizza  
Nov 28 Vestry Meeting  
Dec. 1 Advent Family Day – 10a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Dec. 2 Angel Tree Party – 3:00 p.m.  
Dec. 5 Healing Service  
Dec. 9 Second Sunday – One service  
Dec. 9 Advent Lessons & Carols – 7:30 p.m.  
Dec. 12 Soaking Prayer

## Did you know?

There's a service of Evening Prayer and Healing on  
Friday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Stop by on your way  
home from work and decompress for the weekend.