



## **The End is Near**

The title of this article is one that gets most people's attention. I am not predicting the end of the world or the end of anything else. I am calling us to reflect upon the fact that our liturgical year is coming to an end. We will then begin a new cycle in the church year with the first Sunday in Advent. This time of year is harvest time for much of the world and our Scripture readings focus on what is often called the "last things" (e.g. the end of the world, the final judgment.) We are winding down our own year of 2016 and it is good to reflect on what we have accomplished or not accomplished, as well as to give thanks and praise to God for His presence to us this past year.

We certainly will do that on Thanksgiving Day, but really should be thanking our Lord each and every day of our lives. We hear the Lord tell us about the final harvest, when the good will be separated from the bad, and God's Kingdom will reign without end. Jesus tells us in today's Gospel, that the day and hour are known to God the Father alone.

We need not be afraid of the final judgment, if we have been living our lives as good and holy people. Only those who have removed themselves from God's presence need to be afraid. Our Lord reminds us of these "last things," not to frighten us, but to encourage us to live now as His faithful people. We are to take the Gospel seriously and lives as Jesus lived. When the final judgment does take place, we can then be assured of a special dwelling place in heaven where there is perfect peace, love and happiness.

*Father David*