

at the end of time the general, public judgement. Our particular judgment cannot be changed. It remains for eternity. At the second coming, when He comes to judge the living and the dead, every person's particular judgement will be confirmed and revealed to all. Paragraph 1039 CCC states: *"In the presence of Christ, who is Truth itself, the truth of each man's relationship with God will be laid bare. The Last Judgment will reveal even to its furthest consequences the good each person has done or failed to do during his earthly life."* This is our faith, witnessed by us whenever we say these words of the Creed. We rely on God's mercy and salvation. We have no need to fear. As St John Ch. 3 assures us: *"He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life."*

Stephen S

Entrance antiphon: All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O most High!

First Reading: Isaiah 62: 1-5

Psalms 95: Response: Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 2 1-11

Memorial Acclamation: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

"God is love. Only through loving can we reach love". -Pope Francis



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday Cycle C, 2022

Weekly reflection: The Creed (4): What do we mean when we say: *"He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead"*?

For the practising Christian the idea that at the second coming Christ will judge those still alive is perhaps not particularly difficult to understand. But we may be forgiven for asking how those already judged at the time of their death will also be judged at the second coming. It is this I wish briefly to explore. The truth is that we face two judgements, one at our death and one at the second coming. The Penny Catechism makes this clear in two passages: "76. **Will everyone be judged at death, as well as at the last day?** Everyone will be judged at death, as well as at the last day: 'Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement'. (Heb. 9:27)" And "72. **When will Christ come again?** Christ will come again from heaven at the last day, to judge all mankind."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) explains these two judgements. At paragraphs 1021-1022, we are told that we will each be rewarded immediately after death in accordance with our works and faith; that each receives *"eternal retribution in his immortal soul at the very moment of his death, in a particular judgment that refers his life to Christ: either entrance into the blessedness of heaven - through a purification or immediately, or immediate and everlasting damnation"*. This is our first, or particular, judgment. The judgement at the second coming, or 'general judgement' is dealt with in the CCC at paragraphs 678-682, summarised as follows: *"When he comes at the end of time to judge the living and the dead, the glorious Christ will reveal the secret disposition of hearts and will render to each man according to his works and according to his acceptance or refusal of grace."*

There is, therefore, the particular, private judgement at time of death. Then