Luke 21:5-11
While some people were speaking about how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings, Jesus said, "All that you see here— the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down."

Then they asked him, "Teacher, when will this happen? And what sign will there be when all these things are about to happen?"

He answered, "See that you not be deceived, for many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he,' and 'The time has come.' Do not follow them!"

When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for such things must happen first, but it will not immediately be the end."

Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place; and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky."

Our Scripture Reflection
Not many people want to think about the end of time. It’s just too unpleasant. But when will we? One of the things I find important about the Catholic Church is that Her choice of scripture readings forces us to think about the end times at least once a year. Jesus uses both
natural/earthly as well as cosmic imagery to describe them and they aren’t pretty. BUT, He instructs that while we do not know when it will happen, we are called to be prepared. Trust, perseverance, and hope are to be the modus operandi of the truly faithful disciple.

Food for your Journey

Here is letter, from Alfred Schmidt-Sas, who was executed on April 9, 1943, at the age of 47, after several imprisonments in concentration camps. A teacher and musician, he dedicated himself to fighting the Nazi movement. His letter was in the form of this poem written in the death cell in October 1942:
As in the game of chess, so too in life it matters not
Whether the duel be fought with pieces carved with wood or gold.
How one plays, and what one plays for, that alone
Reveals the man.
Whether, upon post-mortem, menials hurry off the corpse,
Or obsequies of state consign one to a splendid tomb,
How one dies, and what one dies for, that alone
Reveals the man.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You promise us a place in You Kingdom if only we persevere in living Your Gospel in this life. Help me to remain faithful in the midst of the daily challenges and trials of life so that one day, I may enjoy Paradise with You. Amen