

## **The End is Nigh**

As the church year is ending and another new year begins with Advent in a couple of Sundays, our readings during this period of time direct our attention toward things that will happen in the future.

Today we see in Luke's Gospel Jesus informing his disciples about future events. Here Jesus is telling his disciples about things that were about to occur in their time, but also about events surrounding the return of the Son of Man at the end of time.

And it is certainly true that the advent of the second coming of Christ is closer now than it was when the early disciples looked forward to this event. But when it will be, we don't know.

And while we wait, we are to stay spiritually awake, to be mindful of the events that occur, to keep praying and hoping and waiting expectantly for Jesus' return.

As we read scripture, we are encouraged not to fear the future, but to embrace it because our redemption as the people of God is drawing near.

Our faith in God through Jesus, will help us to face the short-term challenges of our lives, knowing that in the long term all things will work out according to God's purposes.