

Beyond Our Concepts Thirty-third Week in Ordinary Saturday, November 19, 2016
Rev 11:4-12; **Lk 20:27-40** (BVM) (What we cannot foresee is what God plans in the creation of all this in the first place.)

“For to him all are alive.”

St. Paul said that **arguing about the nature of the resurrection is a waste of time.** That thought is connected to the thought of Luke in presenting this story about Jesus confronting the Sadducees and scribes. **The point that is made is that what God has prepared for us we cannot put into our own concepts and categories. Life as we know it is clearly going to end someday.** For each of us personally it will end someday; for the entire universe it will end someday. Scientists say that eventually the sun will explode and the earth will burn and so on—billions of years from now of course. Meanwhile we might blow us up because of misuse of our knowledge. If someone starts a nuclear war, it could destroy the whole planet. That we can foresee.

What we cannot foresee is what God plans in the creation of all this in the first place. It is appalling to me that there are actually people that believe that the universe just popped into existence out of nothing and just goes its merry way with such extraordinary beauty and order and loveliness and terror all without purpose. That is to me unbelievable. **There must be a reason for us being here, and there must be a purpose for each of us and for all of us together.** But how this is all working itself out is a mystery we are not allowed to see. **We are supposed to participate through faith.** And as St. Paul makes it clear, faith is not seeing. So: “We live by faith, not by sight.” We don’t see what God is doing, but **we are led somehow by the Holy Spirit in a dark sort of way through each day.** We are helped to make good decisions, right choices, to embrace whatever God is doing. How we think about the future is simply beyond us. “The eye cannot see, the imagination cannot imagine what God has prepared for those who love him,” according to St. Paul in I Corinthians.

So when we try to think about it either positively or negatively, when we try to explain it, we are just out of our own capacity. That’s what Jesus is trying to tell these people today. No, **when it comes to what’s happening in the future, when God gathers his people, together it’s not going to be like anything you have ever known.** It’s going to be far greater than you can imagine. Meanwhile we live each day hoping that the promises of the Lord will be fulfilled, and praying that we may get through it as well as possible.