I bet there a few of us here that remember making paper plate clocks back in Kindergarten. We carefully wrote the numbers around the plate, cut out minute & hour hands from some colored paper, then put it all together using a round-headed brass thingamajig. When everybody was ready, the teacher would call out a time, and we’d all have to move the little hands around until we could proudly prove that we knew how to tell time.

These days we don’t need clocks or watches to tell time. Using the right app, today’s smartphones and computers will quite precisely call out the hour and minute!

Even so, I’m grateful there aren’t any digital voices, beeps, chimes, or bells sounding off in here telling us that it’s the end of time, the moment “when” Christ comes again. I surely don’t want to be troubled or miss out on life waiting for that alarm to go off!

In today’s second reading Paul assures the Thessalonian community that they too need not worry about that time. “Concerning times and seasons,” he writes, “you have no need for anything to be written to you”1. And that includes how-tos on building underground bunkers or stockpiling bacon, medicine, and weapons.

You see when it comes to times and seasons, the apostle Paul wants us instead to be alert to the kairos of very minute. Kairos - this is the original Greek for the word translated as seasons.

Kairos is time measured by God. More precisely, kairos refers to the quality of time rather than the duration of time.

These are moments pregnant with salvation, moments which shape all future time, moments when life changes forever, moments when a single action never stops acting, moments when time stands still.
Kairos.

† It’s a nurse upholding the dignity of a patient on their journey with cancer.
† It’s an unwed mother choosing life for her unborn child.
† It’s a father walking his daughter down the aisle into the arms of her lover.
† It’s a Neu Waves youth asking Jesus to take away their fears.
† It’s a teenager enlisting to protect our religious freedom.
† It’s a whistleblower seeking justice for the discriminated.
† It’s a pastor caring for the soul of a parishioner.

My brothers and sisters, when it comes to times and seasons, Paul wants us to never forget that this is the season of Kingdom of God. We need not worry about the last day because we are already living in the last days. Christ’s resurrection is the first and decisive act of the last day. His Incarnation gifts every moment of our lives with opportunities for a new creation.

This is the season to live each moment alert to God’s presence. And we do this by leading a morally good life, a life which find its source in the reality of Jesus Christ and its fruits in the divine Good that rises above happiness to a “joy born of the truth (gaudium de veritate)”.

The 3rd servant in our Gospel’s Parable of the Talents didn’t understand this. He thought his master’s ways were hard. Lost in his own fear, he chose to turn inward and have as little as possible to do with his master and his money. So the servant went off, dug a hole in the ground, and buried his master's money. But not the other servants. They were disciples of their master’s ways. They’d noticed how their master went about his business, and how he trusted them. So when the master gave them his money but no detailed instructions on what to do with it, these servants seized the moment.

Imagine the master’s delight upon returning and listening to their report: “We learned a lot from you. You try to make everything you touch grow. By allowing us to take part in your mission, you’ve challenged us to be
enterprising. And now we come before you grown in wisdom and sharing in your joy.” Wow.

My brothers and sisters, these servants, like the wise woman from Proverbs, lived life abundantly ready to welcome the Lord. This certainty is at the very heart of our liturgy. For every time we celebrate, “we have a twofold experience: that of the presence of the Lord among us through signs and especially the Eucharist, and that of a yearning for another presence – the final one”\(^4\) – when we joyfully open the door to a friend we have long waited for.

Now is the time of the New Covenant. Now is our time to enter into union with Christ. God gave us his time, short or long, to live each moment sharing his gifts - for others, and for ourselves.

“The thief in the night” will come catastrophically to those who live anxious about their death or the end of this world, seeking peace and quiet while watching time slip away. But for those who fear the Lord and seize every perfect moment to deliver the good news of the Gospel, there will only be surprise that fulfills all our hopes and dreams.

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\(^1\) 1 Thessalonians 5:1  
\(^2\) [http://www.catholicworldreport.com/Blog/1831/the_end_of_the_world_as_we_know_it.aspx](http://www.catholicworldreport.com/Blog/1831/the_end_of_the_world_as_we_know_it.aspx)  
\(^3\) *Veritas Splendor* 77  