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Based on the gospel for Sunday 6 November, Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time: Luke 20:27-38

"God is God, not of the dead, but of the living."

In this reading the Sadducees ask Jesus a question about what life will be like in heaven. What is going on here? A little background may help.

The Sadducees were the priestly class, based in the Temple, coming from David's kingly line. Think of them as the political elite with all the required security – wealth, education, and Roman backing – to maintain their status. Believing only in the here and now, and in their own preservation, they were fundamentally short-sighted and had little to offer.

Jesus, in this Gospel, calls us to be long-sighted and to forget the questions and worries that are so outside this long view as to be totally irrelevant. What matters is that God is alive and active. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob continue to live in God who is ever faithful even when the immediate future might appear to look very bleak. God accompanies us into that bleakness.

How am I to be a child of the resurrection for those facing uncertain futures?

How am I to be an angel of light for those grappling with the darkness of war and conflict, with oppression, the cost-of-living crisis, fuel poverty, illness, and bereavement?

Do I truly feel alive to God, and can I show, by my words and actions, that the God of the living is alive to me and, through me, to others?

Lord, open my mind to the long view of your Kingdom; open my eyes to needs demanding a present response; open my heart to the promise of your life. Amen.



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This reflection and prayer were written by Ged Johnson, spiritual director at St Beuno's Jesuit Spirituality Centre in North Wales.



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