



1 December 2024

1st Sunday of Advent

Year C

NATIONAL AIDS SUNDAY

Advent: Walking with God and Waiting for Fulfillment

Today we begin a new liturgical year. This Advent, while professing our faith in the glorious coming of the Lord at the end of time, and while preparing our hearts to celebrate the wonder of Christmas, we are also reminded of Christ's constant coming into our lives through the sacraments and our neighbor.

Today, the first Sunday of December, is also **National AIDS Sunday** and the **World Day for People with Disabilities**. The Church has been at the frontlines of the battle against AIDS and has always upheld the welfare of all those who suffer from disabilities. Let us remember in this Eucharist the persons living with HIV/AIDS and all those with disabilities together with those who are caring for them.

As we begin this celebration, let us ask the Lord for the grace to be always ready to welcome Jesus at any time with a heart full of trust, hope, and love.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame. (Cf. Ps 24:1-5)

Greeting

P – In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

All–Amen!

P –The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

All–And with your spirit!

Penitential Act

P –Coming together as God's family, with confidence let us ask the Lord's forgiveness, for he is full of gentleness and compassion. *(Pause)*

P –Lord Jesus, you invite us to be vigilant, but we often behave as if you should never come. Lord, have mercy!

All– Lord, have mercy!

P –Lord Jesus, you knock at the door of our hearts, asking to be admitted, but we often turn a deaf ear. Christ, have mercy!

All–Christ, have mercy!

P –Lord Jesus, you invite us to be attentive to the needs of our neighbor, but we pretend not to see. Lord, have mercy!

All– Lord, have mercy!

P –May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All–Amen!

Collect (Opening Prayer)

P –Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All–Amen!

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LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading *Jer 33:14-16*
For centuries, since the time of David, the people of Israel had been waiting for the Messiah – a descendant of David, according to God’s promise. In today’s short passage we have a restatement of that promise.

R –A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah. In those days, at that time, I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land. In those days Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure; this is what they shall call her: “The Lord our justice.”

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 25*

R –To you, O Lord, I lift my soul!

R. M. Velez

To you, O Lord, I
lift my soul!

* Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths, guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior, and for you I wait all the day. **R.**

* Good and upright is the Lord; thus he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice, and teaches the humble his way. **R.**

* All the paths of the Lord are kindness and constancy toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees. The friendship of the Lord is with those who fear him, and his covenant, for their instruction. **R.**

2nd Reading *1 Thes 3:12-4:2*
Belief in the imminent Second Coming of Jesus was very deeply felt, especially by the faithful of Thessalonica. Such belief had also moral implications, as St. Paul brings out in this beautiful prayer which is particularly relevant at the beginning of Advent.

R –A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Brothers and sisters:
May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen!

Finally, brothers and sisters, we earnestly ask and exhort you in the Lord Jesus that, as you received from us how you should conduct yourselves to please God – and as you are conducting yourselves – you do so even more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation *Ps 85:8*

All—Alleluia! Alleluia!

Show us, Lord, your love, and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel *Lk 21:25-28.34-36*
Today’s Gospel passage refers to the coming in power of Christ as Judge of all. The second part describes the way in which the believers should prepare themselves for the great event on which their eternal destiny will depend.

P –The Lord be with you!
All—And with your spirit!

P –A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
All—Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus said to his disciples: “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in

dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.

Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord!
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith

(Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed)

All—I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow)* **and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.*** For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have

no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P –Today the Word of God reminds us of the coming of Christ as our Judge and how we should prepare to stand secure before Him. In all humility, let us pray for the grace to welcome Him with a pure conscience and humble trust. Let our response be:

All—Lord, graciously hear us!

C –For the Church: May she be an effective reminder to the whole world that the Lord is constantly coming to us in all those who seek our help. Let us pray!

R.

C –For the Holy Father, the bishops, and priests: Through their example, may they be an inspiration to the entire Church of how to be always ready to welcome Jesus. Let us pray!

R.

C –For all parents and educators: May they teach their children and students how to see Jesus present in their neighbor and welcome him in them. Let us pray!

R.

C –For the Christians who are persecuted for their faith: May they stand firm and not lose heart, strengthened by God's grace and the prayers and support of all nations. Let us pray!

R.

C –For all those who live with disabilities and those who suffer from HIV/AIDS: May they find hope in Jesus, in spite of their illness, and be treated with Christ-like love and compassion by the people around them. Let us pray!

R.

C – For us as we welcome the

Jubilee Year: may it strengthen our faith, and help us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope. Let us pray. **R.**

P –Lord our God, we look to the coming of Your Son with faith and hope. Dispose our hearts to welcome him whole-heartedly and so share in his happiness for ever and ever.

All—Amen!

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



Preparation of the Gifts

P –Pray, brethren . . .

All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P –Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below gain for us the prize of eternal redemption.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

Preface of Advent I

P –The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P –Lift up your hearts!

All—We lift them up to the Lord!

P –Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All—It is right and just!

P –It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For he assumed at his first coming the lowliness of human flesh, and so fulfilled the design you formed long ago, and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, that, when he comes again in glory and majesty and all is at last made manifest, we who watch for that day may inherit

the great promise in which now we dare to hope.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

All—Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Memorial Acclamation

P –The mystery of faith!

All—When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again!

COMMUNION RITE



All—Our Father . . .

P –Deliver us, Lord . . .

All—For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All—Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (2x)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Communion

P –Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb.

All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase. (Ps 84:13)

Prayer after Communion

P –May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated, profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures.

Through Christ our Lord.

All–Amen!

CONCLUDING RITES



P –The Lord be with you!

All–And with your spirit!

P –Bow down for the blessing.

(Pause)

May the Lord purify your hearts and minds.

All–Amen!

P –May He make you instruments of renewal in the Church and society.

All–Amen!

P –May the holy season of Advent be a bearer of improvement and serenity for all of you.

All–Amen!

P –May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All–Amen!

P –Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!

All–Thanks be to God!



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PUBLICATIONS**

Don Bosco Compound, A. Arnaiz Ave. cor. Chino Roces Ave., Makati, Metro Manila

Postal Address: P.O. Box 1820, MCPO, 1258 Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines

Tel. Nos. 8894-5401; 8475-8945 • Website: www.wordandlife.org

• E-mail: wordandlifepublications@gmail.com • FB: Word And Life Publications

• Editorial Team: Fr. J. Camaya, Fr. C. Dimaranan, Fr. D. Duya, V. David, R. Molmog, D. Daguio

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Walking With The Lord; Waiting For Fulfillment

Kalakbay at Katoto

There is something rousing in today's readings.

Jeremiah was talking to a people who needed a little moral upliftment. Jesus in the Gospel passage from Luke talks as if to reinforce whatever feelings the Israelite audience of Jeremiah had. He spoke of cataclysmic signs that sound scary. Such surrounding circumstances are made as backdrop to the coming of the awaited one – “*the Son of Man, coming in a cloud with power and great glory.*”

But the message is not about fear, but about a promise.

And that message for today, the first day of Advent, is simply this: the Lord is coming!

That was the basic message of Jeremiah.

They were a people under siege. And a people under siege needed to hear words of promise and comfort, not fear. They needed to be reminded that behind all those sufferings and trials they were facing, there is one undeniable certainty that is bound to take place according to the will of the God they believed and hoped in. “*The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah. In those days I will raise up for David a shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land.*”

Number 1 message for today, therefore, has to do with the promises of the Lord. They are soon to be fulfilled!

Promises . . . coming . . . waiting . . . these are important concepts to think of. Advent has to do with all three – and more! Advent has to do with waiting, not in fear, but in hope, for the promises of the Lord will soon be fulfilled.

Our basic catechism has taught us at least these two things: one . . . historically speaking, the Lord has come. He was born of the Virgin Mary and became man like us (Christmas). Second, he still comes to us now in grace through the ministry of the Church and the sacraments (liturgy). These constitute the “already” of our faith – reality that has unfolded and still unfolds. But there is a third reality that we all still await – the “not yet” of our faith – his definitive coming to bring the fullness of salvation, the “reality” behind the symbolic cataclysmic, world-ending events we have grown accustomed to hearing yet not fully understanding!

What, then, do we make now of all this? What impact do these promises of his definitive coming have in our personal and societal lives as Christians, as Catholics?

To be very honest, we also live in the context of so many little versions of these “world-ending” events. Our world seems about to end when we lose hope. Our little world seems to collapse when we get sorely disappointed when dreams do not come true, when plans fall flat on their faces, and our best intentions are misread and even rash-judged by others. Our world collapses when we do not get that much-coveted position, job, or esteem from others. People fight little wars inside themselves. People fight fruitless wars of mutual envy, hatred, and broken relationships in and out of family systems, in politics, in businesses and in so-called civil society. Millions are currently fighting terminal and painful illnesses. In other words, there are all the reasons available to be less than optimistic and downright hopeless about the future. Cynicism can pervade our hearts and minds as we see ourselves powerless and helpless before so many problems in the world.

This is where Advent liturgy can help us. Perhaps we can get a clue from St. Paul in his letter to the Thessalonians. Today, he offers us two things: a prayer/wish for all of us, that the Lord may make us “*increase and abound in love for one another,*” and, an exhortation that we may “*conduct ourselves to please God.*” The original word used for “conduct” really was *peripateo*, which means to walk according to the ethical and moral standards of Christ.

Here, then, we have an invitation to walk in the way of Christ, to follow, in particular what we may call an Advent way of life. But all this hop-

ing is not a type of waiting done by people who cannot do anything more than being passively resigned.

Advent way of life is a waiting that is not like the waiting of someone who somehow hopes to strike it rich by winning the lotto. **Advent waiting, the advent way of life is to walk, to move, to work so that what we hope for becomes a reality in our lives.** That means concretely, peace and justice becoming real and palpable in our families, in our parishes, and in our communities.

I add two big words for all of us today: anticipation and incarnation. Advent waiting simply put, is not just anticipating something. No, advent waiting has to do with incarnating the reasons for our hope. It has to do with acting, behaving and doing in accordance with the hopes that we have in our hearts. It means not only being forward-looking, but also, being forward-moving. We all long for peace, justice and love. We all wait for that definitive coming of the Son of Man, for the real end-times, for the time, when “*there will be no more tears, no more crying, no more pain.*” But as we live in this “in-between” time that is the here and now, as we wait actively in hope, we just have to contribute and work to make all that happen in the here and now.

In daily ordinariness, we wait for the fulfillment of the Lord’s promises. But as we wait, we walk with the Lord along the way of his commands, along the paths that lead to peace.


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