



EUCHALETTE



7 December 2025

2nd Sunday of Advent

Year A

CATHOLIC HANDICAPPED DAY / NATIONAL AIDS SUNDAY

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD!

As we progress in our spiritual pilgrimage toward the shrine of Jesus' manger, on this Second Sunday of Advent, St. John the Baptist reminds us that we need to prepare ourselves adequately for our encounter with the Lord. We must prove the seriousness of our resolve to change for the better, each of us in our own situation.

St. Paul gives us some practical tips about what this preparation can mean, as he invites us to live in perfect harmony with one another, accepting one another as Christ has accepted us. Only on these conditions shall we be able to glorify God with one voice and one heart as loving children should, particularly in this Advent season.

Today is also National AIDS Sunday and Catholic Handicapped Day. Let this be an opportunity for us not only to pray for those who are victimized by HIV/AIDS, but also do our share to stop the alarming rise of this pandemic that threatens the foundation of our society. At the same time, let us also show our love and solidarity for our handicapped brothers and sisters.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

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

O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

(Cf. Is 30:19, 30)

Greeting

P –Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All –And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

P –As we continue our preparation to welcome the Lord in our hearts, let us renew our aware-

ness of our many shortcomings and the need to be healed by God's forgiveness and strengthened by His grace. *(Pause)*

P –Lord Jesus, forgive our acts of unfairness and aggressiveness toward our neighbor. Lord, have mercy.

All –Lord, have mercy.

P –Lord Jesus, forgive us for the times we have rejected people we did not like. Christ, have mercy.

All –Christ, have mercy.

P –Lord Jesus, forgive us for the times we have walked the winding roads of sin. 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 –Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All –Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading

Is 11:1-10

To a people disheartened by the disappointing performance of its rulers, Isaiah presents the vision of a descendant of David, who will promote justice and peace throughout the world.

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R – A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel and of strength, a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord, and his delight shall be the fear of the Lord.

Not by appearance shall he judge, nor by hearsay shall he decide, but he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted. He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Justice shall be the band around his waist, and faithfulness a belt upon his hips.

Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall be neighbors, together their young shall rest; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the cobra's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair.

There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord, as water covers the sea.

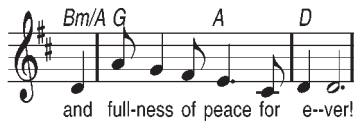
On that day, the root of Jesse, set up as a signal for the nations, the Gentiles shall seek out, for his dwelling shall be glorious.

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

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
R —Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace forever.

R. M. Velez



* O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son. He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment. R.

* Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth. R.

* For he shall rescue the poor man when he cries out, and the afflicted when he has no one to help him. He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor; the lives of the poor he shall save. R.

* May his name be blessed forever; as long as the sun, his name shall remain. In him shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed; all the nations shall proclaim his happiness. R.

2nd Reading *Rom 15:4-9*
About to conclude his letter to the faithful of Rome, the apostle Paul asks for them a harmonious relationship and mutual acceptance – two virtues that we, too, should practise as we prepare for Christmas.

R –A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Whatever was written previously was written for our instruction, that by endurance and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed

you, for the glory of God.

For I say that Christ became a minister of the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, to confirm the promises to the patriarchs, but so that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: "Therefore, I will praise you among the Gentiles and sing praises to your name."

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

Gospel Acclamation *Lk 3:4, 6*

All—Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel *Mt 3:1-12*
John the Baptist is clear and even blunt in his appeal to conversion as he reminds us that every tree that does not bear fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. No one should presume to take advantage of God's patience.

P –The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

P –A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All—Glory to you, O Lord.

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: "A voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"

John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey.

At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged

GLOSSARY: • **Jesse**: The father of King David and, therefore, a forefather of the Messiah. • **Pharisees**: Members of a religious sect in Israel who were characterized by a very strict interpretation and observance of all the laws contained in the Bible. • **Sadducees**: A religious party or sect existing in Palestine in the time of Jesus. They believed neither in the resurrection from death nor in the existence of angels. This put them at odds with the Pharisees and also with Jesus.

their sins.

When he saw many of the *Pharisees and Sadducees* coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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 —Challenged by St. John the Baptist to give evidence of our determination to become better persons, we feel the need to be helped by the Lord in this very important undertaking. In all sincerity, we pray:

All—Lord, graciously hear us.

C —That the whole Church may live this Advent in a spirit of conversion and show sincere efforts to make up for the past wrongdoings of Her members, let us pray. **R.**

C —That all the leaders of the Church may have the courage of John the Baptist to call their flocks to conversion, and lead them by their own example, let us pray. **R.**

C —That all nations and factions at war may begin to take seriously the vision of harmonious relationships outlined by the prophet Isaiah in today's First Reading, let us pray. **R.**

C — That all those who are sick of HIV/AIDS may find spiritual consolation and healing from people who are giving them care and assistance, let us pray. **R.**

P —God our Father, Source of all goodness and grace, purify our intentions and strengthen our hearts, that all that we do in this Advent season may be for Your greater glory and the greater good of our communities. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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 —Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy.

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—Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

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. (2×)

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

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

(Bar 5: 5; 4:36)

Prayer after Communion

P –Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven.

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 almighty God strengthen and purify you with His forgiveness.

All—Amen.

P –May He fill you with His consolation and hope in this

season of preparation for Christmas.

All—Amen.

P –May God make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life.

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

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

• Editorial Team: Fr. R. De Guzman, V. David, R. Molmog, D. Daguio

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ADVENT: A JOURNEY OF TWO LOVES

Jess P. Balon

Spiritual authors have compared the season of Advent to a journey toward the grotto of Bethlehem where we can behold the radiant face of Baby Jesus. This is a beautiful image that can be of great help to us who wish to live this holy season with purposeful intensity. But this is only half of the story. The greater and more important half is the “better half” of God’s journey toward us. This is what has made Christmas a reality, for **CHRISTMAS IS THE CONVERGING POINT OF TWO JOURNEYS: GOD’S JOURNEY AND OURS!**

God’s journey is the journey of the shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine sheep in their safe pen and goes in search of the one that got lost – a journey that started millennia back in time and which exposed the shepherd-God to so many disappointments and rejections. He did not have to subject Himself to those hardships. ***It was His divine love for all human beings which impelled Him to undertake that journey.***

It was the journey of God to Ur to look for Abram and snatch him away from the claws of paganism; the journey that led the Lord to cross the desert and look for Moses in order to wrest His oppressed people from the slavery of Egypt. It was the journey of God’s eternal Word into the limitations of human nature when he became one of us – the journey of the God who is all-sufficient, cannot suffer and immortal, into the fetters of the human condition that is characterized by suffering, misery, and death.

But God’s long and pain-filled journeys will not be beneficial to us, sinful human beings, if we, too, do not journey toward Him. We must realize the wretched situation in

which we have thrust ourselves through our unwise choices, our pride, our lust, our lack of honesty and of everything that is good and holy. And having realized that, like the prodigal son, we should rise and walk the road of conversion that leads to the house of the Father.

Our journey back to God means severing our ties with the web of sinful habits that may have enmeshed us, and aiming decisively to live the life of freedom as God’s children. We must bridge the gap between our good intentions and consequent actuations. We must turn our back on the foggy of an aimless and uncommitted existence, and move toward a life of dedication to living the demands of our baptism. For some, this may even mean to step out of the darkness of a sinful existence and ***forge ahead into the radiance of a life lived in joyful obedience to God’s law.*** In short, ***our life must be a journey toward the rising Sun of God’s presence,*** seeking the light of His grace, the balm of His forgiveness, the warmth of His embrace, the joy and peace of His friendship.

As for those who may honestly feel that they are not great sinners, Advent has a challenge for them, too – the challenge to open their hearts, in imitation of Mary Most Holy, and let the Holy Spirit mold in them the Word-made-flesh. This is the essential condition for Christmas to happen, for ***Christ will be born only in the lives of those who open wide their hearts to him as Mary of Nazareth did.*** This is where the two journeys end and the great encounter/embrace begins.

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