



EUCHALETTE



8 December 2024

2nd Sunday of Advent

Year C

ADVENT: A TIME FOR TRANSFORMATIVE HOPE

We have begun the good work of living the spirit of Advent with trust, hope, and love. Today we are reminded by St. Paul to persevere in this praiseworthy undertaking. John the Baptist is our trusted guide in the all-important work of our spiritual renewal in preparation for the commemoration of Christ's birth.

To prepare the way for the Lord is to make straight the winding roads of our moral uncertainties and inconsistencies; to fill up the ravines of our past shortcomings and failings; and to level down the peaks of our pride and arrogance. It means nurturing hope and at the same time working for personal and societal transformation. As we are engaged in this work of "spiritual landscaping," our love for God and neighbor should increase ever more, that we may be found pure and blameless at the coming of our Lord.



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

All – Amen!

P – The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

All – And with your spirit!

Penitential Act

P – As we continue our Advent preparation, with confidence let us acknowledge our need to be forgiven and to be strengthened by God's grace. *(Pause)*

All – I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, *(And, striking their breast, they say:)* **through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; *(Then they continue:)* therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

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

All – Amen!

P – Lord, have mercy!

All – Lord, have mercy!

P – Christ, have mercy!

All – Christ, have mercy!

P – Lord, have mercy!

All – Lord, have mercy!

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!

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LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading *Bar 5:1-9*
The Jews exiled in Babylon were undergoing a severe crisis. To them, the prophet Baruch addressed the words of hope we are about to hear. This same message is directed to us today.

R –A reading from the Book of the Prophet Baruch

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name.

For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship.

Up, Jerusalem! Stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God.

Led away on foot by their enemies they left you, but God will bring them back to you, borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones.

For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low. And that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God.

The forests and every fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at God's command; for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company.

The Word of the Lord!

All—Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 126*

R —*The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!*

R. M. Velez



The Lord has done great things



for us; we are filled with joy!

* **When the Lord brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing.** **R.**

* **Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad indeed.** **R.**

* **Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the torrents in the southern desert. Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.** **R.**

* **Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown, they shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves.** **R.**

2nd Reading *Phil 1:4-6.8-11*
Enthused at the wonderful response he got among the faithful of Philippi, St. Paul wrote the memorable hymn of thanks and the petition we hear in today's Second Reading. Let us make our own the prayer of the Apostle.

R —A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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 mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel *Lk 3:1-6*

In today's text, St. Luke mentions the outstanding political and religious figures of the time to emphasize the historical character of the "Jesus event." What matters most, however, is John's urgent appeal to prepare our hearts to welcome the Lord.

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!

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the desert.

John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: A voice of one crying out in the desert:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

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 –As we proceed in our Advent pilgrimage, we become ever more aware of the need to make our hope become active and transformative in our personal and communal lives. Let us ask for His help to do just that as we implore Him:

All–Lord, hear our prayer!

C –For the Church and her leaders: Like John the Baptist, may they successfully dispose the hearts of people to welcome the Lord through their teaching and good example. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all those who have gone astray in their moral life: May they heed John’s call to repentance in this Advent and bear the fruit of a sincere conversion. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For the leaders of our country and the world: May they make serious efforts to bring to justice all human traffickers and put an end to this modern-day slavery. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all social media influencers: May they realize the influence they have on people’s minds and always uphold the dignity of men, women, and children. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all of us: As Pope Francis has pleaded, may we not “look to other way” when faced with cases of human trafficking, but do our share in fighting all forms of exploitation and abuse. 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 God, strengthen our frail hearts in clearing a straight path for Your Son Jesus. Fill up the valleys of our discouragement, level the cliffs of our pride, and smooth our rough ways that our hope truly becomes transformative.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

All–Amen!



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



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.)

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 God’s grace strengthen and purify you with his forgiveness as you prepare to welcome the Lord Jesus

All–Amen!

P –May He fill you with His consolation and hope in all the difficulties you may encounter.

All–Amen!

P –May your love for God increase more and more and may you be a blessing to all

those you meet.

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!

THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF HOPE

Kalakbay at Katoto

The gospel today opens with a listing of some of what could very well be the equivalent of modern-day “underworld” characters: Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea; Herod, his brother Philip, and Lysanias, tetrarchs all, and the scheming duo, Annas and Caiaphas, both High Priests. Add to the mix the very first name mentioned by Luke in today’s passage – Tiberius Caesar, and you have a formidable line-up of bigwigs and the powers that be, in front of whom the lowly and unassuming “*John, the son of Zechariah in the desert,*” would be absolutely no match by any stretch of the imagination!

a reminder time and again, about who is really in-charge, and about “what dreams may come,” for all of us who believe!

At a time when most people, bowed by the weight of so much worry about the future, about our personal destiny and that of the society we are in, we need a gentle reminder that the little, insignificant David, out-matched by the giant and powerful Goliath who stands for all imaginable types of evil in the world, enjoys the predilection of him about whom John the Baptist speaks and preaches with his whole life.

In the unfolding drama that pits power and wealth and untold influence of this “gang of 7” over the simple, proletarian background of that feeble “*voice of one crying out in the desert,*” the scriptural readings make no secret about the outcome. “*Every lofty mountain [will] be made low, and the age-old depths and gorges [will] be filled to level ground, and Israel [will] advance secure in the glory of God.*” “*Every valley shall be filled and every mountain shall be made low [...] and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.*”

Yes. We all are in front of our own modern-day version of this “gang of seven.” We are all beset by an enemy, or at least a challenge so big, a problem so hydra-headed and so all-pervading that we, and our weak faith appear to be so overwhelmed, if not totally drowned out. In the face of so powerful a mass media (and social media!), for example, the voice of the Church and her teachings, hardly make a dent in the welter of so much manipulation in the guise of information. In the context where I grew up in and come from, government has become a big standing joke. Politics makes for a big “family industry” in

We all could use a little bit of



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the Philippines – for those few political families in power. The Church, for so long speaking like a “voice crying out in the desert,” faces on all fronts the pervasive influence and power of the gang of seven: corruption on all levels, political dynasties, a rapidly deteriorating level of education, self-serving politics, organized crime, a highly politicized and corrupt military establishment, and an anemic Church, who, sadly, by and large, has been identified, rightly or wrongly, with the rich and the shrinking middle class. Baruch, it must be remembered, was speaking to a people who could use a little encouragement. The Israelites were languishing in exile in pagan Babylon! They were a people who needed to hear words of comfort, words of promise, and words that had to do with dramatic transformation. “Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever.”

But lest we think that all this transformation is going to take place as if by magic, wrought solely by God’s magnanimity and compassion, with hardly no effort on our part, St. Paul reminds us: *“This is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.”*

Yes, there is work for all of us to do! Our hand-wringing and complaining can take us only so far. Complaining endlessly about the undeniable fact that politics and government are going to the dogs (or to movie actors and social media influencers) will not make the world a better place.

There is work for us to do. Paul sums up for us what needs to be

done. We must learn to discern what is of value. We must know where we stand in the midst of so many conflicting ideologies and value-systems. We need to level them, first in our own personal lives, before we even dream of leveling them in others. Culture, including the culture of corruption is something we all are party to and contributors to. We all need to work on this together.

Last week, the first Sunday of Advent, we spoke about hope as active, and not passive waiting. Today, we are reminded about the litmus test of this hope as we await the promise of the Lord. It has to do with a courageous and bold resolve to engage the “gang of seven” as they appear in our lives today. It has to do with living the “fruits of righteousness” that St. Paul speaks about. At Advent, we are reminded to allow these fruits to show that the promise of transformation has become, or is becoming already a reality in our lives. Then and only then, *“all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”*

2025 Word And Life Publications Executive Desk Calendar

Our Executive Desk Calendar 2025 Jubilee Year Edition highlights some significant events in the history of the Church’s Jubilee Years from the year 1300 to the present.

Let us know and appreciate more the meaning of the Jubilee Year by revisiting the past.

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