

The Eucharist

3 December 2023 ♦ FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B



In this new season, the Church leads us to reflect in gratitude on the memory of God's love. This love is most clearly manifested in the coming (advent) of Jesus, the Word made flesh, as an infant in Bethlehem. What God has done in the past provides a basis for looking forward to the Second Coming as something to be hoped for. If God has proved to be so gracious in the past, one can be confident that meeting him at the end of time could not be an ordeal. Advent, then, is the great season of hope.



'Stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour,' Jesus said to his disciples.

FIRST READING (Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1:3-8)

In this reading we have an impassioned plea for God to show his presence in a striking way. The tedium of sin and lack of commitment to God is beginning to pall. The people have become light-weight and superficial, tossed around by every breeze that blows. The prophet pleads with God to burst through the veils that conceal him and to restore fervour and definite values.

SECOND READING (1 Corinthians 1:3-9)

In this reading the mood is very different from the first one: because the Corinthians have allowed God into their lives, the Holy Spirit has had a steadying effect on them, keeping them true to the values of Christ until the great manifestation of God in Christ at the Last Day.

GOSPEL (Mark 13:33-37)

Keeping awake, being on the watch, is a regular theme in the teaching of Jesus. It does not mean simply waiting for something to happen as the world passes by untouched and unheeded. Rather, it means letting the hope of the glorious manifestation of God at the end have a deep effect on our lives now, giving them direction and energy and love, as we live and work in this world.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 24:1-3)

**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.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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

And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

Brethren (brothers and sisters),
let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare ourselves
to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

A brief pause for silence follows.

**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;
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.**

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

Amen.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Gloria is not said.

Collect

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,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

(Is 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open
and come down
– at your Presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 79:2-3.15-16.18-19)

**R God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. **R**
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. **R**
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. **R**

SECOND READING

(1 Cor 1:3-9)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul
to the Corinthians.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you
grace and peace.
I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have
received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you
have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your
teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed
been strong among you so that you will not be without
any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our

Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you
steady and without blame until the last day, the day of
our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has
joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Ps 84:8)

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

(Mk 13:33-37)



The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake,
because you never know when the time will come. It is
like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home,
and left his servants in charge, each with his own task;
and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay
awake, because you do not know when the master of
the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn;
if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep.
And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Profession of Faith

(Nicene Creed)

**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,**

*At the words that follow, up to and including
and became man, all 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.**

The priest introduces the Prayer of the Faithful.

✠ THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST ✠

Offering the bread, the priest says:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
for through your goodness we have received
the bread we offer you:

fruit of the earth and work of human hands,
it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Offering the chalice, the priest says:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
for through your goodness we have received
the wine we offer you:

fruit of the vine and work of human hands,
it will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

**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

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.

Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer II

(Preface I of Advent)

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

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:

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.

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,
the fount of all holiness.

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall,
so that they may become for us
the Body and ✠ Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed
and entered willingly into his Passion,
he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,

WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,
he took the chalice

and, once more giving thanks,
he gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,

FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,

THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,

WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

Therefore, as we celebrate
the memorial of his Death and Resurrection,
we offer you, Lord,
the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation,
giving thanks that you have held us worthy
to be in your presence and minister to you.

Humbly we pray

that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church,
spread throughout the world,
and bring her to the fullness of charity,
together with **N.** our Pope and **N.** our Bishop
and all the clergy.

Remember also our brothers and sisters
who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection,
and all who have died in your mercy:
welcome them into the light of your face.

Have mercy on us all, we pray,
that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,

with the blessed Apostles,
and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout
the ages,
we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life,
and may praise and glorify you
through your Son, Jesus Christ.
Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

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

Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And with your spirit.

*The priest may invite the people to exchange a sign of peace
and Christian fellowship. As the priest breaks the consecrated
Host the following is sung or said:*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

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

Showing the Eucharist to the people, the priest says:

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.
**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

(Ps 84:13)

**The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall
yield its increase.**

Prayer after Communion

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.

Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

May the almighty and merciful God,
by whose grace you have placed your faith
in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son
and yearn for his coming again,
sanctify you by the radiance of Christ's Advent
and enrich you with his blessing.

Amen.

As you run the race of this present life,
may he make you firm in faith,
joyful in hope and active in charity.

Amen.

So that, rejoicing now with devotion
at the Redeemer's coming in the flesh,
you may be endowed with the rich reward of eternal life
when he comes again in majesty.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Personal Prayer

Lord, our God, keep us from being lulled asleep by
the rhythm of distraction of every day.

May your Word, revealed in Jesus, keep us alert and
active in doing what is good, avoiding what is bad
and hoping in the final victory of your love.

You are the potter, as the prophet says, and we are
the clay, but clay fired to last by the Holy Spirit, being
prepared to encounter you in the great Advent.

Amen.