

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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.

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,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Jer 33:14-16

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah
See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:
'In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.

In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The-Lord-our-integrity.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 24 (25):4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

Response:

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

- Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. (R.)
- The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)
- His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and will. The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him; to them he reveals his covenant. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Th 3:12-4:2

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL

Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus said to his disciples: "There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand."

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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,

(all bow during the next three lines)

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 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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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.

If the Word truly became flesh, then God had not only a mother, but also a grandmother, cousins, great-aunts, and weird uncles. If the Word truly dwelt among us, then he was part of a family that, like most, was fairly dysfunctional, a mix of the good and bad, the saintly and the sinful, the glorious and the not so glorious. And this is such good news for us.

Bishop Robert Barron

Sunday Message

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE WORD

Year C • 1 December 2024 • Colour: Violet • Psalter Week 1

THE TRUTH OF THIS SEASON

LK 21:25-28,34-36

**Events in the world can alert us to the activity of God - or they can prove a huge distraction.**

Jesus speaks of signs that the kingdom is near at hand, the kingdom that will bring liberation to all those who are captives. He stresses the importance of being alert, attentive to the signs that the kingdom is near. We can't be sure when all the events foretold will take place, so attentiveness must be second nature. Whatever happens, whenever it happens, the disciple must be prepared.

For Jesus, being attentive is not simply waiting idly for something to happen. Attentiveness is opportunity for prayer and preparation. The disciple knows that the glory of the Lord is just around the corner and lives in expectation, knowing that the present order will pass and the new order will take its place. When all comes to pass that is to come to pass, the attentive disciple will not be taken by surprise. ■

REFLECT

It popped up on Facebook a few weeks before the 2016 US presidential election. A sensational story on its news feed claimed that Pope Francis had endorsed Donald Trump for president. To the casual user scrolling through Facebook, the story looked legitimate. But keen observers of the campaign as well as clued-in Catholics knew it had to be wrong. Popes don't publicly interfere in elections. Popes don't endorse specific candidates. It would have been a huge break with tradition, something Pope Francis simply would not do.

And yet there it was on Facebook. The way the story was written and presented made it look real. It could have been posted by a reporter for The New York Times or Associated Press. But it hadn't come from any of the mainstream media. It was an invented story, made up to influence the outcome of the election. It was part of an orchestrated campaign to encourage Catholics in swing states to vote in a certain way. It was part of what came to be known as fake news.

It did its job. The story about Pope Francis stood out because it was so blatantly false, yet even if one person in a thousand in a few key states changed their vote because of it, that would have been enough to sway the result.

Fake news is deliberate disinformation designed to deceive. It is lies and distortion of the kind used by Hitler and Goebbels, a strategy straight out of George Orwell's 1984.

After the election, Facebook and Twitter admitted their platforms had been used to spread false news not only during the presidential campaign but also during the Brexit referendum and other election campaigns too. Social media had been systematically corrupted by lies and misinformation. The result was that people ended up not sure as to what is fact and what is fiction.

"What is truth?" Pilate asked during the trial of Jesus. It's a question that has even

DO

Put up an Advent wreath. Light a candle today and each Sunday of Advent, as you await the coming of the Lord.

SAY

Say the opening lines of the psalm each day this week: "Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths."

LEARN

Advent is the great season of waiting

The spiritual life is the way to everlasting happiness

God wants the best for us

PRAY

Pray for those for whom this time of year is especially difficult. Ask the Lord to comfort them.

greater urgency in today's multi-media world. It is a question worth reflecting upon especially during Advent. Advent is the season of watchful waiting for the Lord's coming, the season of being attentive to God's presence. We are not to be misled by false gods or false promises. We are not to be misled by a misplaced emphasis on material things or on 'black Friday' or the commercialisation of Christmas. We are not to lose sight of the truth of this season - that the God who came among us to save us is with us now and will come again at the end of time to bring us to the fullness of life. We must be alert.

The truth of this season is that God is one with us and will never abandon us. Even when Church and State let us down, even when we're not sure what to believe any more, we can be certain of God's love and presence with us at all times. The Good News we celebrate during Advent is not fake news. It is the truth in the news, the truth that sets us free. ■