

THE WORD OF THE LORD : TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

At the Solemn Eucharist at 11 o'clock  
THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

The new liturgical year opens with promises and prayers, promises of the coming reign of God and prayers that the people of God will be ready for that reign. The biblical texts set a tone of hopeful expectation, yet not without trepidation in view of the awesome events to come. The Old Testament reading is an announcement that the ancient promise of a Davidic messiah will be fulfilled and Jerusalem will dwell secure. The responsorial psalm is a prayer for help and forgiveness, reaffirming the righteousness and faithfulness of God already expressed in the reading from Jeremiah 33. In the epistle, Paul's prayer that he be allowed to join the faithful in Thessalonica becomes a petition that they be ready for the coming of the Lord. The Gospel lection sets the season of Advent into an eschatological framework: the signs in the heavens indicate that the kingdom of God is near.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33.14-16

Behold, the days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord  
R/. Thanks be to God

PSALM: 25.1-10—Ad te, Domine, levavi; Tone I,4



- 1 UN-TO thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul :  
my God, I have put my trust in thee.
- 2 O let me not be con-found-ed : neither let mine enemies tri-umph o-ver me.
- 3 For all they that hope in thee shall not be a-sham-ed :  
but such as transgress without a cause shall be put to con-fu-sion.
- 4 Show me thy ways, O Lord : and teach me thy paths.
- 5 Lead me forth in thy truth and teach me :  
for thou art the God of my salvation; in thee is my hope all the day long.
- 6 Call to remembrance, O Lord, thy tender mer-cies :  
and thy loving- kindnesses, which have been ev-er of old.
- 7 O remember not the sins and offences of my youth :  
but according to thy mercy think thou upon me, O Lord, for thy good-ness.
- 8 Gracious and righteous is the Lord :  
therefore will he teach sin-ners in the way.
- 9 Them that are meek shall he guide in judge-ment :  
and such as are gentle, them shall he teach his way.
- 10 All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth :  
unto such as keep his covenant and his tes-ti-mo-nies.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3.9-13

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord  
R/. Thanks be to God

SEQUENCE HYMN

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| <p><b>C</b>REATOR of the starry height,<br/>Thy people's everlasting Light,<br/>JESU, Redeemer of us all,<br/>Hear thou thy servants when they call.</p> <p>2 Thou, sorrowing at the helpless cry<br/>Of all creation doomed to die,<br/>Didst save our lost and guilty race<br/>By healing gifts of heavenly grace.</p> <p>3 Thou cam'st, the Bridegroom of the bride,<br/>As drew the world to eventide;<br/>Proceeding from a virgin-shrine,<br/>The spotless Victim all divine.</p> | <p>4 At thy great Name, exalted now,<br/>All knees in lowly homage bow;<br/>All things in heaven and earth adore,<br/>And own thee King for evermore.</p> <p>5 To thee, O Holy One, we pray,<br/>Our Judge in that tremendous day,<br/>Ward off, while yet we dwell below,<br/>The weapons of our crafty foe.</p> <p>6 To GOD the FATHER, GOD the SON,<br/>And GOD the SPIRIT, THREE in ONE,<br/>Praise, honour, might, and glory be<br/>From age to age eternally.</p> |
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CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM  
Sarum Plainsong, 7th cent.

From the Latin (c 6th cent.)  
Tr J.M. Neale 1818-66

GOSPEL : Luke 21.25-36

R/. Glory be to thee, O Lord

Jesus said, "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon earth distress of nations in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on 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. Now when these things begin to take place, look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." And he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees; as soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away till all has taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But take heed to yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a snare; for it will come upon all who dwell upon the face of the whole earth. But watch at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of man."

The Gospel of Christ

R/. Praise be to thee, O Christ