

THE WORD OF THE LORD : TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

At the Liturgy at Nine-Thirty
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.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 25 1-9



Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.

To you, O lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me. Let none who look to you be put to shame; let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes. *R/.*

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long. Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting. *R/.*

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord. Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore he teaches sinners in his way. *R/.*

He guides the humble in doing right and teaches his way to the lowly. All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. *R/.*

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Luke 21.28

Alleluia. Alleluia. Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. Alleluia.

GOSPEL : Luke 21.25-36

R/. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 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, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Gospel of Christ
R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Presider: God of love and power, your word stirs within us the expectation of the coming of your Son. Accept all we offer you this day, and sustain us with your promise of eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Presider: God for whom we wait, you have fed us with the bread of eternal life. Keep us ever watchful, that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man. We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord. People: Amen