



USC Caruso
Catholic Center

First Sunday in Advent

Family Prayer Service

Presider: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Let us acknowledge the times which we have not been faithful to God.

Penitential Rite A

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,
(striking your breast, say:)
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
(Then continue with:)
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.

Opening Prayer:

Presider:

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.

All: Amen

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7

You, LORD, are our father, our redeemer you are named forever. Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old. No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him. Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways! Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean people, all our good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt. Yet, O LORD, you are our father; we are the clay and you the potter: we are all the work of your hands.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse your power, and come to save us.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted, the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

A Reading from the first Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Alleluia:

Psalm 85:8

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Show us Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Mark:

Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: “Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’

The Gospel of the Lord

**Reflection/Family Discussion on the readings and Gospel:
by Deacon Paul Pesqueira**

Homi-flection for the First Sunday of Advent

Today we celebrate throughout the Roman Catholic world the First Sunday of Advent. It is the beginning of the new Liturgical year. During this time, we will be reading from the Gospel of Mark instead of Matthew, and the vestment color changes from green to a dark purple. We have four weeks to prepare for the coming of Christ in human form. We have to decorate our homes, put our elf on the shelf, set out our nativity scenes, and buy our presents. And of course, make our favorite foods. There is so much to prepare for during Advent. Yet are we really preparing our hearts for the coming of the Christ child? Or are we too busy? We are called to be watchful, and to be alert. I need to make time for the coming of the Christ Child in my life.

There is a theme for each of the four Sundays in Advent. The theme for the first week is **hope**. Below are the other themes for the upcoming weeks of Advent.

Week 1: Hope

Week 2: Peace

Week 3: Joy

Week 4: Love

In today's gospel, Mark says, "Be watchful, be alert!" Mark 13:33. As our new Liturgical year begins, our calendar year comes to an end. "Be watchful and be alert" is a message that we have been very aware of this entire year. With everything that has happened in 2020, I do not know if hope has been high on our list of life expectations. But, it should be. Losing hope can be very harmful emotionally and spiritually. We hope and pray for better days to come. If there is no hope, then what do we have to look forward to? We're in danger of succumbing to despair and pessimism.

Isaiah states in the first reading, "No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him." We need to have a watchful eye and be alert for the presence of God in our lives during the next four weeks. Can I/we spend a little more time in prayer? What about reading scripture? Maybe I/we can watch some Bishop Barron videos on YouTube? God can and *will* do wonderful things in our lives. What if we are not paying attention or are attentive to the deeds of God. "Be watchful, be alert." It is a reminder - do not let God pass you by.

The spiritual gifts from God can elevate our life from despair and pessimism to a life of hope. "For the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge." This is what St. Paul is reinforcing to the Corinthians in the second reading. Seeking out God's grace by participating in the life of the church through the sacraments will strengthen our hope for a brighter future. I/we need to continue to seek out God for the next four weeks. Let us try and balance the craziness of the Christmas season. Also, let us be attentive to the Advent season. I will pray for hope, peace, joy, and love for all of you, my friends. Please pray the same for me. Let us prepare, let us be watchful, and be alert for the ultimate gift of love, the Christ child. *Marana Tha*. Come Lord Jesus.

Nicene 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.

(raise from bow)

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

Presider: With gratitude for the blessings we have received let us raise our hearts in prayer.

Intercessions:

1. That our prayer and work together as a church and parish community may reflect our joyful expectation of Christ's coming:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

2. That the ministries of the Church and policies of governments and nations may transform discord into cooperation, hatred into peace, and distrust into respect and understanding:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

3. That this Advent season may be a time not for mindless consumerism but for the renewal and re-creation of human hearts:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

4. That families in crisis and families who are divided and separated from one another may find healing and reconciliation in this Advent journey:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

5. That those who are mired in despair, who are abandoned or turned away, may see the face of God in our compassionate outreach to them:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

6. That Christ will bring into his Father's presence the souls of the deceased relatives and friends:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

Presider:

You, O Lord, are the Potter and we are the clay, the work of your hands. Shape us in your ways of justice and mercy, form us in your peace, and craft us in your love. We ask these things in the name of your Son, Our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our Father:

Presider: At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All:

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.

Amen

Sign of Peace:

Presider: 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.

All: Amen

Presider:

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All:

And with your spirit.

Presider:

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

(At this time please offer a moment of silence before the Spiritual Communion is said.)

Spiritual Communion:

All: I wish my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervor of the saints.

Closing Prayer:

Presider:

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.

All: Amen