



USC Caruso
Catholic Center

Second 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:

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. 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 40:1-5, 9-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Go up onto a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what God proclaims; the LORD—for he proclaims peace to his people. Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and justice shall look down from heaven.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

The LORD himself will give his benefits; our land shall yield its increase. Justice shall walk before him, and prepare the way of his steps.

R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Peter:

2 Peter 3:8-14

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard “delay,” but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.

Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace

The Word of the Lord

Alleluia:

Luke 3:4, 6

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Mark:

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection/Family Discussion on the readings and Gospel:
by Fr. Joe Kim, OFM Conv.

How is your Advent going? Have you found yourself being more intentional? Have you found yourself spending more time in prayer? With family? Have you found yourself giving more attention to the poor and those who are suffering from the pandemic? Have you noticed those who have lost jobs and are struggling to pay the bills or to keep food on the table? Or – perhaps you have found this Advent like those Advents, those Lents, or, honestly speaking, like all the other moments in your life that you go about looking out for you and your own?

Are you focused and protective of your time, your energy, your resources and money, seeking what you need or want first? It's easy to fall into this way of living, this way of thinking about our life in this world. And we oftentimes can find great and good excuses and justifications to live in this way: We think, "I need to take care of my loved ones first." "I barely have enough for what we need." "When things get better financially, etc., I will then think about and help others." It's perhaps for these reasons that we have a liturgical calendar – an ever-repeating cycle that continuously challenges and invites us into a deeper reflection of our life and faith; into a deeper and more authentic relationship with God and others.

This Advent season again calls to us to begin again as we recognize and welcome again Jesus, our Emmanuel, or "God is with us!" our scriptures today invite us to begin where we always need to begin. By first taking a hard and honest look and account of ourselves and our lives. Hearing the words of John the Baptist today as those who heard his message thousands of years ago on the banks of the Jordan River, we are called to look at the manner and way in which we have been living our life. Please let me be clear, it's not to make one feel guilty or ashamed – I feel compelled to say these days that since society and the media seems to shame and "cancel" those who have made mistakes. John's call is not to shame or cancel us, but it's where we need to start – recognizing the places and corners of our hearts that we are in need of conversion, in need of change, in need of compassion and mercy – recognizing that we need Jesus! Another word for this is: REPENTANCE. When we repent, we are acknowledging that we need God, that we need to change. Advent calls us back to repentance – to start again, to go deeper this time around. As we do this, we make more room for God and others in our hearts and lives. So how will you spend these next couple weeks of Advent?

John the Baptist calls us to repentance. What are the things in your life and relationships that you need to repent? What concrete steps will you take to actively engage in repentance?

Sacrificial giving is a mark of active repentance. How will you open your heart and lives to others this Advent season? Are you giving from your extra? Or are you making sacrifices in order to help our brothers and sisters in need?

Culturally, children send their wish list to Santa for gifts. What is it that you wish for from our Lord? What gift/grace do you hope for Christmas?

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: In joyful hope in the coming of God's reign, let us pray.

Intercessions:

1. For our Church and parish community, that in our prayer and work together we may create a highway for our God:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

2. For our bishops, priests, deacons, and for all who serve the church, that they may proclaim the comforting and healing mercy of God:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

3. For those who lead and govern, that they may be instruments of God's peace and justice for all peoples:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

4. For all churches and faith communities, that they may be heralds of the good news of God's presence among us:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

5. For the poor, the homeless, and the forgotten, that we may recognize, in them, the person of Jesus:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

6. For all our deceased relatives and friends, that Christ the Shepard may gather them into his care forever:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

Presider:

Lord God, hear the prayers of your people who anxiously await your coming. Help us straighten the crooked roads of our lives so that we might create a highway for you to enter our homes and hearts with the peace of Christ Jesus, your Son, in whose name we offer these prayers.

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:

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen