

# The Eucharist

6 December 2020



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / B



**G**od does not barge into our lives: he stands at the gate and knocks. However, we can only open to him with his help. We need him to undo the bolts and unravel the twists and turns and deceptions of our lives if he is to come and live with us. And so we pray that our hearts may be opened to receive Christ with joy today as the tax collector Zacchaeus received him so many years ago. Like him, we need to learn to judge wisely the things of earth and love the things of heaven.



*'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am ... I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'*

## FIRST READING

*(Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11)*

Disaster and exile convinced the Jews that God had abandoned them because of their sins. In this passage comes the good news that he is coming – not to take vengeance but to feed, protect and love. To all that threatens his people he is the invincible warrior but to the exiles he is the caring and gentle shepherd.

## SECOND READING

*(2 Peter 3:8-14)*

Those who expected the imminent Second Coming of our Saviour began to grow restless at its delay. In this passage, they are reassured that they must not think that their expectations are as important as God's plans. The Lord will certainly come again, but instead of calculating the date, Christians should spend their time living good lives building up peace.

## GOSPEL

*(Mark 1:1-8)*

John the Baptist sums up all that is meant by Advent. This time of preparation is the time to repent, not so much by lamenting the past as by making the effort to live a better life in the future. For this to happen, we must allow God to build a highway into our lives, filling in the valleys of sloth and depression and knocking down the hills of pride and self-sufficiency.

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Antiphon

*(Cf. Is 30:19.30)*

**O people of Zion, behold,  
the Lord will come to save the nations,  
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard  
in the joy of your heart.**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**And with your spirit.**

### Penitential Act

Brethren (brothers and sisters),  
let us acknowledge our sins,  
and so prepare ourselves  
to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

*A brief pause for silence follows.*

**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,**

*And, striking their breasts, they say:*

**through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
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.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

**Amen.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*The Gloria is not said.*

### Collect

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.

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

(Is 40:1-5.9-11)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.  
 'Console my people, console them,'  
 says your God.  
 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem  
 and call to her  
 that her time of service is ended,  
 that her sin is atoned for,  
 that she has received from the hand of the Lord  
 double punishment for all her crimes.'  
 A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness  
 a way for the Lord.  
 Make a straight highway for our God  
 across the desert.

Let every valley be filled in,  
 every mountain and hill be laid low,  
 let every cliff become a plain,  
 and the ridges a valley;  
 then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed  
 and all mankind shall see it;  
 for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain,  
 joyful messenger to Zion.  
 Shout with a loud voice,  
 joyful messenger to Jerusalem.  
 Shout without fear,  
 say to the towns of Judah,  
 'Here is your God.'

Here is the Lord coming with power,  
 his arm subduing all things to him.  
 The prize of his victory is with him,  
 his trophies all go before him.  
 He is like a shepherd feeding his flock,  
 gathering lambs in his arms,  
 holding them against his breast  
 and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

(Ps 84:9-14)

**R Let us see, O Lord, your mercy  
 and give us your saving help.**

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
 a voice that speaks of peace,  
 peace for his people.  
 His help is near for those who fear him  
 and his glory will dwell in our land. **R**
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
 justice and peace have embraced.  
 Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
 and justice look down from heaven. **R**
3. The Lord will make us prosper  
 and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
 Justice shall march before him  
 and peace shall follow his steps. **R**

**SECOND READING**

(2 Pt 3:8-14)

A reading from the second letter of St Peter.  
 There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget:  
 that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and  
 a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow

to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called  
 slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody  
 to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways.  
 The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a  
 roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall  
 apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should  
 be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for  
 the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames  
 and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for  
 is what he promised; the new heavens and new earth, the  
 place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my  
 friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives  
 without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

(Lk 3:4.6)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Prepare a way for the Lord,**  
**make his paths straight,**  
**and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.**  
**Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

(Mk 1:1-8)



The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**  
 A reading from the holy Gospel  
 according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the  
 Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you;  
 he will prepare your way.  
 A voice cries in the wilderness:  
 Prepare a way for the Lord,  
 make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness,  
 proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of  
 sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their  
 way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river  
 Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of  
 camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the  
 course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me,  
 someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit  
 to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have  
 baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the  
 Holy Spirit.'

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

**Profession of Faith**

(Nicene Creed)

**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,**

*At the words that follow, up to and including  
and became man, all bow.*

**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.**

*The priest introduces the Prayer of the Faithful.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),  
that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands  
for the praise and glory of his name,  
for our good  
and the good of all his holy Church.**

### Prayer over the Offerings

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers  
and offerings,  
and, since we have no merits to plead our cause,  
come, we pray, to our rescue  
with the protection of your mercy.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### Eucharistic Prayer III

*(Preface I of Advent)*

The Lord be with you.  
**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Christ our Lord.

For he assumed at his first coming  
the lowliness of human flesh,  
and so fulfilled the design you formed long ago,  
and opened for us the way to eternal salvation,  
that, when he comes again in glory and majesty  
and all is at last made manifest,  
we who watch for that day  
may inherit the great promise  
in which now we dare to hope.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,  
with Thrones and Dominions,  
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,  
we sing the hymn of your glory,  
as without end we acclaim:  
**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,  
and all you have created  
rightly gives you praise,  
for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by the power and working of the Holy Spirit,  
you give life to all things and make them holy,  
and you never cease to gather a people to yourself,  
so that from the rising of the sun to its setting  
a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you:  
by the same Spirit graciously make holy  
these gifts we have brought to you for consecration,  
that they may become the Body and  $\times$  Blood  
of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed  
he himself took bread,  
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,  
broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended,  
he took the chalice,  
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,  
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:  
**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY  
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.**

**DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.**

The mystery of faith.

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
until you come again.**

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial  
of the saving Passion of your Son,  
his wondrous Resurrection  
and Ascension into heaven,  
and as we look forward to his second coming,  
we offer you in thanksgiving  
this holy and living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church  
and, recognizing the sacrificial Victim by whose death  
you willed to reconcile us to yourself,  
grant that we, who are nourished  
by the Body and Blood of your Son  
and filled with his Holy Spirit,  
may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

May he make of us  
an eternal offering to you,

so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect, especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary,

Mother of God,  
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,  
with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs  
(with Saint N.: *the Saint of the day or Patron Saint*)  
and with all the Saints,  
on whose constant intercession in your presence  
we rely for unailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation,  
we pray, O Lord,  
advance the peace and salvation of all the world.  
Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity  
your pilgrim Church on earth,  
with your servant N. our Pope and N. our Bishop,  
the Order of Bishops, all the clergy,  
and the entire people you have gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family,  
whom you have summoned before you:  
in your compassion, O merciful Father,  
gather to yourself all your children  
scattered throughout the world.

To our departed brothers and sisters  
and to all who were pleasing to you  
at their passing from this life,  
give kind admittance to your kingdom.

There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory  
through Christ our Lord,  
through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
O God, almighty Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour is yours,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## THE COMMUNION RITE

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

**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.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

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.

**Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And with your spirit.**

*The priest may invite the people to exchange a sign of peace and Christian fellowship. As the priest breaks the consecrated Host the following is sung or said:*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.**

*Showing the Host to the people, the priest says:*

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.**

**Communion Antiphon** (Bar 5:5; 4:36)

**Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,  
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.**

**Prayer after Communion**

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.

**Amen.**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Personal Prayer

Lord, our God, help us when our faith falters and we wonder about your love. May your Son come into our hearts to give us strength in our difficulties and confidence when we fail. Help us to be patient when faced with sickness or trials of any sort. Help us to be generous in responding to the suffering of others and to be constant in our prayers that the Lord will find us ready when at last he comes. Amen.