



EUCHALETTE



10 December 2017

2nd Sunday of Advent

Year B

NAT'L ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING SUNDAY

Prepare for the Coming of the Lord

Whenever we experience the bites of suffering, we raise our voices to God asking Him to “show His kindness and grant His salvation.”

Such was also the prayer of Israel, especially in the long period of the Exile. But for such wonder to happen, the prophet Isaiah told them that they had to “make straight in the desert a highway for their Lord” (Is 40:3).

This same call to repentance and conversion was made by John the Baptist to the entire people of Israel when the time came for God to send them the promised Messiah.

This call of the “fiery prophet” spans the centuries and reaches us today, as urgent as ever. We, too, need God’s help and forgiveness. But in order to enjoy this, we have to do our share – we have to go back to Him.

Today, the second Sunday of December, we also celebrate Anti-Human Trafficking Sunday. In our world, modern forms of slavery exist, putting men, women, and children in oppressive situations of forced labor and sexual exploitation. We offer all Masses in the Philippines today for all victims, as we pray and work for an end to human trafficking.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

O, people of Sion, 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.

Greeting

P –The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All–**And with your spirit!**

Penitential Act

P –As we continue our Advent spiritual pilgrimage, with confidence let us ask the Lord’s forgiveness, for he is full of gentleness and compassion. *(Pause)*

P – For the times we have failed to walk the straight road of the Gospel and have preferred the meanders of sin. Lord, have mercy!

All–**Lord, have mercy!**

P – For the times we have allowed pride and aggressiveness to rule our life. Christ, have mercy!

All–**Christ, have mercy!**

P – For the times we have been a cause of suffering to our neighbor rather than promoters of peace and joy. Lord, have mercy!

All–**Lord, have mercy!**

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

All–**Amen!**

Collect (Opening Prayer)

P –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!**

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading *Is 40:1-5,9-11*

Jerusalem lay in ruins and most of its inhabitants had been carried away to Babylon as slaves, without any prospect of returning home. To the City and its people, a prophet known as Second Isaiah addresses an encouraging message: The Lord will once again take care of them “like a shepherd who feeds his flock.”

R – A proclamation from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

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.

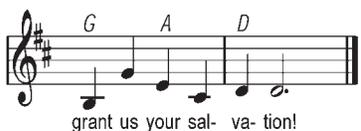
Go up onto a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord God, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense 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!
All – Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm Ps 85

R – Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation!

R. M. Velez



*** 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.**

*** 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.**

*** 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.**

2nd Reading 2 Pt 3:8-14

Many among the early Christian generations felt disappointed at seeing that the coming of the Lord in glory had not taken place as they expected. The passage that is about to be proclaimed explains to them and us the reason for such an apparent “delay” and how the “in-between” time should be used.

R – A proclamation from the Second Letter of Peter

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!
All – Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4.6

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

Gospel Mk 1:1-8

The Jews expected that the Messiah would be preceded by a “forerunner.” St. Mark, like all other Evangelists, identifies this forerunner as John the Baptist, the man who fulfilled the prophecy contained in the first part of today’s First Reading.

P – The Lord be with you!
All – And with your spirit!

P – A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Mark

All – Glory to you, O Lord!

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

GLOSSARY: • **Second Isaiah:** An anonymous prophet who exercised his ministry immediately before the end of the Exile and during the resettlement of the Jews in Palestine. • **Zion:** One of the two hills on which Jerusalem was built. Often this name stands for the whole city of Jerusalem and its inhabitants. • **Judah:** The name of the region whose capital city was Jerusalem. The name comes from Judah, one of the children of Jacob, and whose descendants settled in that region. In the time of Jesus that same region was called Judea.

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!
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith (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.* 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!

Prayer of the Faithful

P —As we continue to prepare our hearts to receive the Lord, let us implore the help of his grace, saying:

All—Come, Lord Jesus, we need you!

C —For the whole Church: May she be perceived as the herald of good news in a world tormented by aggressiveness, injustice, divisions and violence. **R.**

C —For the Holy Father, our Bishop, and other spiritual leaders: In imitation of John the Baptizer, may they never get tired of calling all mankind to conversion. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For all mankind: May all human beings come to acknowledge that only in Jesus can they find meaning, reconciliation and fulfillment. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For all those who find themselves unable to break the fetters of vice: May they put all their trust in God's mercy, while doing their best to do what He commands. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For the victims of human trafficking: May they find hope and inspiration in the life of St. Josephine Bakhita who was also a victim like them but found healing and new life in Jesus, and may they be freed from their bondage and find emotional, physical, and spiritual healing from their painful experience. Let us pray! **R.**

C —For all of us: As Pope Francis has pleaded, may we not "look the other way" and instead care and do our share in fighting human trafficking and all forms of exploitation and abuse. Let us pray! **R.**

C —Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. (*Pause*)
Let us pray! **R.**

P —Lord Jesus, you are the source of our hope and salvation. Free our hearts from every evil impulse and give us the joy of your presence. You who live and reign for ever and ever.

All—Amen!



Preparation of the Gifts

P —Pray, brethren . . .

All—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

P —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.

All—Amen!

Advent Preface I

P —The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P —Lift up your hearts!

All—We lift them up to the Lord!

P —Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All—It is right and just!

P —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:

All—Holy, holy, holy . . .

Memorial Acclamation

P —The mystery of faith!

All—Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.



All—Our Father . . .

P —Deliver us, Lord . . .

All—For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever!

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All—Lamb of God . . .

Communion

P —This is the Lord Jesus, whose coming was announced by John the Baptist. 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.

All—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

(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold

the joy which comes to you from God.

Prayer after Communion

P —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!



P —The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit!

P —Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing. *(Pause)*
May He make this Advent

rich in works of love and compassion for you and those who are dear to you.

All—Amen!

P —May He make each of you a bearer of good news to all you meet today.

All—Amen!

P —May you experience God's comfort and consolation all the days of your life.

All—Amen!

P —May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All—Amen!

P —Our Eucharistic celebration is over. Go and carry its fruits into your life.

All—Thanks be to God!

Let Us Prepare the Way

Whenever man experiences the bites of suffering, he raises his voice to God asking Him to "show His kindness and grant salvation." Such has always been the attitude and prayer of Israel, especially in the long period of exile and at other moments in their history when they were harassed by aggressive neighbors. The prophet Isaiah reassured his own countrymen that their loving God was not insensitive to the cries of His repentant, suffering people. The Lord was about to "turn His face" to them in mercy and loving concern. He Himself, actually, would move toward His own people and take care of them, especially the weak and the defenseless, as a shepherd does with his flock. *(See Is 40:11.)*

The forgiving and consoling love of the Lord, who was going to "turn" toward His people would make them experience a rebirth after the long pangs of the Exile. But for this wonder to happen, they had to do their share — i.e., they had to "make straight in the desert a highway for their Lord" *(Is 40:3)*.

This same proclamation was made by John the Baptist to the whole people of Israel. Fulfilling the promises of old, *the Lord had turned with love toward His people* and was about to manifest His mercy in the most personal way — a way that would outshine all previous manifestations.

People of all times may, occasionally, feel the Lord is "late in coming" — late in fulfilling His promise of salvation. St. Peter reminds us today in the second reading that God has not forgotten His promises, nor has He reneged on them. The implementation of His plan is "on course." Rather than questioning God's "punctuality," we should see whether something may not be lacking in our preparation for the

"great encounter." There are important things that we have to do, things that we may have neglected altogether or done in an unsatisfactory way. "God is patient with you," explains Peter, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." *(See Second Reading, v. 9.)*

On God's part, the promise stands: the promise of "new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells" *(v. 13)*. But for that promise to become a reality, our cooperation is essential. And that cooperation has a realistic, demanding, and even harsh name: **repentance!**

This means that the people *are to turn toward God with a repentant heart*, and move to encounter Him, treading the thorny path and steep road of a sincere **conversion**.

This call to conversion spans the centuries and reaches us today as pertinent and demanding as ever. We, too, need God and His forgiveness. We, too, yearn to see the light of His loving countenance. And we can encounter Him and enjoy His presence only in a life of righteousness in atonement for our sins. Then "Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss." Thus, the Savior and the saved shall celebrate the encounter of their converging love.



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