



2 December 2018

1st Sunday of Advent

Year C

BEGINNING OF THE YEAR OF THE YOUTH  
NATIONAL AIDS SUNDAY

**ADVENT: A TIME TO REMEMBER THE FUTURE  
WITH HOPE**

**T**oday we begin a new liturgical year. This Advent, while professing our faith in the glorious coming of the Lord at the end of time, and while preparing our hearts to celebrate the wonder of Christmas, we are also reminded of Christ's constant coming into our lives through the sacraments and our neighbor.

Today we also begin the observance in the Philippines of the "Year of the Youth." We are delighted with its theme: "FILIPINO YOUTH IN MISSION: BELOVED, GIFTED, EMPOWERED."

Today, the first Sunday of December, is also **National AIDS Sunday**. The Church has been at the frontlines of the battle against AIDS. But we all must do our share to stop the alarming rise in HIV/AIDS cases that threatens the very foundation of our society: the family. As we try to learn more about this deadly disease and reach out to those who are affected by it, let us remember in this Eucharist the persons living with HIV/AIDS and the ones who are caring for them.



**INTRODUCTORY  
RITES**



**Entrance Antiphon**

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

**To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.**

**Greeting**

**P** –The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

**All** –**And with your spirit!**

**Penitential Act**

**P** –Coming together as God's family, with confidence let us ask the Lord's forgiveness, for he is full of gentleness and compassion. *(Pause)*

**P** –Lord Jesus, you invite us to be vigilant, but we often behave as if you should never come. Lord, have mercy!

**All** –**Lord, have mercy!**

**P** –Lord Jesus, you knock at the door of our hearts, asking to be admitted, but we often turn a deaf ear. Christ, have mercy!

**All** –**Christ, have mercy!**

**P** –Lord Jesus, you invite us to be attentive to the needs of our neighbor, but we pretend not to see. 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** –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!**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD



### 1st Reading *Jer 33:14-16*

For centuries, since the time of David, the people of Israel had been waiting for the Messiah – a descendant of David, according to God’s promise. In today’s short passage we have a restatement of that promise.

**R** –A proclamation from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah. In those days, at that time, I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land. In those days Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure; this is what they shall call her: “The Lord our justice.”

The Word of the Lord!  
All – Thanks be to God!

### Responsorial Psalm *Ps 25*

**R** –To you, O Lord, I lift my soul!

*R. M. Velez*

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul!

\* Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths, guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior, and for you I wait all the day. **R.**

\* Good and upright is the Lord; thus he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice, and teaches the humble his way. **R.**

\* All the paths of the Lord are kindness and constancy toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees. The friendship of the Lord is with those who fear him, and his covenant, for their instruction. **R.**

### 2nd Reading *1 Thes 3:12-4:2*

Belief in the imminent Second Coming of Jesus was very deeply felt, especially by the faithful of Thessalonica. Such belief had also moral implications, as St. Paul brings out in this beautiful prayer which is particularly relevant at the beginning of Advent.

**R** –A proclamation from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

**Brothers and sisters:**

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen!

Finally, brothers and sisters, we earnestly ask and exhort you in the Lord Jesus that, as you received from us how you should conduct yourselves to please God – and as you are conducting yourselves – you do so even more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

The Word of the Lord!  
All – Thanks be to God!

### Gospel Acclamation *Ps 85:8*

All – Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Alleluia! Alleluia!

### Gospel *Lk 21:25-28.34-36*

Today’s Gospel passage refers to the coming in power of Christ as Judge of all. The second part describes the way in which the believers should prepare themselves for the great event on which their eternal destiny will depend.

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

**P** – A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All – Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus said to his disciples: “There will be signs in the

sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.

Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord!  
All – Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

## Homily

### Profession of Faith

(*Nicene-Constantinopolitan 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** –Today the Word of God has reminded us of the coming of Christ as our Judge and how we should prepare to stand secure before him. In all humility, let us pray for the grace to welcome him with a pure conscience and humble trust. Let our response be:

**All** –Lord, graciously hear us!

**C** –For the Church: May she be an effective reminder to the whole world that the Lord is constantly coming to us in all those who seek our help. Let us pray!

**R.**

**C** –For the Holy Father, the bishops, and priests: Through their example, may they be an inspiration to the entire Church of how to be always ready to welcome Jesus. Let us pray!

**R.**

**C** –For all parents and educators: May they teach their children and students how to see Jesus present in their neighbor and welcome him in them. Let us pray!

**R.**

**C** –For our youth: May they be aware of the preciousness of this stage in their life, avoid damaging it through vices, and pursue, instead, authentic values, thereby preparing themselves to enrich our country with their enthusiasm, generosity and integrity. Let us pray!

**R.**

**C** –For all of us: May the “Year of the Youth” enable all of us to appreciate the importance of

our young people in the life of the Church and of our nation, and care for their welfare. Let us pray!

**R.**

**C** –For the persons living with HIV/AIDS: May they find hope in Jesus, in spite of their illness, and be treated with Christ-like love and compassion by the people around them. Let us pray!

**R.**

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

**R.**

**P** –Lord our God, we look to the coming of Your Son with faith and hope. Dispose our hearts to welcome him whole-heartedly and so share in his happiness 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** –Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below gain for us the prize of eternal redemption.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All** –Amen!

### Preface of Advent 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 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!

### Memorial Acclamation

**P** –The mystery of faith!

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



**All** –Our Father . . .

**P** –Deliver us, Lord . . .

**All** –For the kingdom . . .

### Sign of Peace

#### Breaking of the Bread

**All** –Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (2x)

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

### Communion

**P** –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.)

**The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.**

### Prayer after Communion

**P** –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!**

## CONCLUDING RITES



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

**P** –Bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing. *(Pause)*  
May the Lord purify your hearts and minds.

**All–Amen!**

**P** –May He make you instruments of renewal in the Church and society.

**All–Amen!**

**P** –May the holy season of Advent be a bearer of improvement and serenity for all of you.

**All–Amen!**

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

**All–Amen!**

**P** –Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!

**All–Thanks be to God!**

## PREPARING TO WELCOME THE LORD WITH FAITH-FILLED EXPECTATION

God does not wait till the end of the world to judge us. We shall have to face Him as our Judge at the end of our life, even if the sun keeps shedding its light as usual, and the rest of mankind may be enjoying perfect tranquility. On that day (or night) we shall see *the end of our world* –of the relationships we have established with things, places, and people.

**The question**, then, **is not “if” this world of ours will end**. It shall surely end, for us, when we die. It is not even *“when”* and *“how”* it will end, for that is not for us to know. Rather, **what matters is HOW we will reach the end i.e., what will be the disposition of our heart when we meet the Lord at our death**. That will be the most dramatic moment in our existence, since our eternal destiny will depend on that encounter. Hence, **the exhortation to “be vigilant at all times and pray.”**

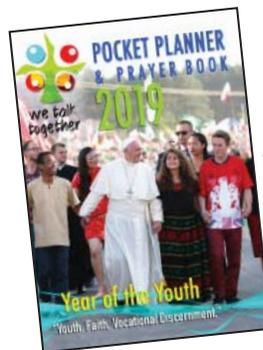
To be vigilant, in this case, does not mean to be like a sentry on the lookout for possible attacks from external enemies, though we live in an unfriendly world, and “the great day will close in on us *like a trap*” (Lk 21:34). Rather, it means that **we have to guard ourselves against our sinful inclinations fanned by the devil, and the moral disorder** which both original sin and our personal sins have introduced into our lives.

We all have a continuous **“insurgency problem.”** But the situation of permanent “red alert” in which we have to live should not paralyze us. **We are expected to take the initiative** and “conduct ourselves in a way pleasing to God,” ever bent on making “still greater progress” (1 Thes 4:1).

All this is far from easy. **A very strong enemy has infiltrated our lives, and we are weak and wounded**. We desperately need a powerful ally on whose help we can rely. His presence in us will be not only the most effective deterrent against the “enemy,” but also a factor of “internal stability.” **God Himself is such an Ally**, and prayer is the “supply line” through which we come to share in His strength.

By opening our hearts in prayer to Him, we begin to enjoy that life-giving communion which is the essence of the afterlife for all those who say “Yes” to Him. If we place ourselves in such a disposition, nothing, not even death, will frighten us. And actually, we shall be able to raise our heads with trust-filled hope . . . “to stand secure before the Son of Man” (Lk 21:28.36).

Let this be our disposition this Advent as we take our first steps in the “Year of the Youth,” the year of “new beginnings” and new fervor, in the “Era of the New Evangelization.”



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