



EUCHALETTE



17 December 2018

CHRISTMAS NOVENA – Second Day

Year C

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS IS UNSHAKABLE

In this second day of our Christmas Novena, we are reminded that the Messiah comes as the fulfillment of God's plan to redeem mankind from sin and offer eternal life to all human beings. The Lord revealed and implemented His plan by stages with a faithfulness that has its roots in His tender and strong love for each human being. This plan was carried out at the proper time, in spite of the many failings and betrayals on the part of the human "partners."

Today we are invited to reflect on God's faithful love. The challenge for us is to be grateful to Him for His faithfulness and to reciprocate it by being faithful to our Baptismal commitments, both as individuals and as a community of believers.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

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

Rejoice, O heavens, and exult, O earth, for our Lord will come to show mercy to his poor.

Greeting

P—Grace and peace from God our Savior, the Faithful One. May His grace and peace be with you all!

All—And with your spirit!

Penitential Act

P —Coming together as God's family on this second day of our Novena, with confidence let us ask the Lord's forgiveness and strength. *(Pause)*

P —Lord Jesus, Son of David and Son of Abraham, forgive our lack of respect, and sins of omission against our relatives. Lord, have mercy!

All—Lord, have mercy!

P —Lord Jesus, eternal Son

of the Father, forgive our failure to live according to your teaching. Christ, have mercy!

All—Christ, have mercy!

P —Lord Jesus, Son of Mary Most Holy, forgive our lack of concern and care for our fellow human beings. 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!

Gloria

All—Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen!

Collect (Opening Prayer)

P —Creator and Redeemer of the human race, it was your holy will that your Word should take flesh in the womb of the ever-Virgin Mary. Look with kindness on our prayers and grant that your only Son, who came to share our human nature, may lead us to share in his divine life.

We ask this 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 *Gn 49:2.8-10*

As old Jacob is about to die, he gives his son Judah, the ancestor of David and Jesus,

a special blessing which is a prophecy about his tribe's outstanding position among the other tribes of Israel. This prophecy has found its perfect fulfillment in Jesus Christ, "The Son of David," "The Son of Abraham."

R –A proclamation from the Book of Genesis

Jacob called his sons and said to them: "Assemble and listen, sons of Jacob, listen to Israel, your father.

You, Judah, shall your brothers praise – your hand on the neck of your enemies; the sons of your father shall bow down to you. Judah, like a lion's whelp, you have grown up on prey, my son. He crouches like a lion recumbent, the king of beasts – who would dare rouse him? The scepter shall never depart from Judah, or the mace from between his legs, while tribute is brought to him, and he receives the peoples' homage."

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

Responsorial Psalm Ps 72

R –Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever!

R. M. Velez

* O God, with your judgment endow the king, and with your justice, the king's son. He shall govern your people with justice and your afflicted ones with judgment.
R.

* The mountains shall yield peace for the people, and the hills justice. He shall defend the afflicted among the people, save the children of the poor.
R.

* Justice shall flower in his days, and profound peace, till the moon be no more. May he rule from sea to sea, and from

the River to the ends of the earth.
R.

* May his name be blessed forever; as long as the sun his name shall remain. In him shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed; all the nations shall proclaim his happiness.
R.

Gospel Acclamation

All–Alleluia! Alleluia!

O, Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 1:1-17

God had promised Abraham that in his progeny all the peoples of the earth would find a blessing. He also promised David that his dynasty would last for ever. The long genealogy that follows proves that Jesus Christ is the one in whom those two promises were fulfilled.

P –The Lord be with you!

All–And with your spirit!

P –A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All–Glory to you, O Lord!

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham became the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez became the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab. Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab. Boaz became the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth. Obed became the father of Jesse, Jesse the father of David the king.

David became the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon became the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asaph. Asaph became

the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, Joram the father of Uzziah. Uzziah became the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amos, Amos the father of Josiah. Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the Babylonian exile.

After the Babylonian exile, Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abiud. Abiud became the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor the father of Zadok. Zadok became the father of Achim, Achim the father of Eliud, Eliud the father of Eleazar. Eleazar became the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ.

Thus the total number of generations from Abraham to David is fourteen generations; from David to the Babylonian exile, fourteen generations; from the Babylonian exile to the Christ, fourteen generations.

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

Homily

Prayer of the Faithful

P –Encouraged by God's faithfulness to His promises, let us humbly submit to Him our petitions for the needs of the Church and all mankind. Let our response be:

All–Lord, make us faithful to You!

C –For the Catholic Church and all other Christian denominations: May the Gospel we share bring ever closer to one another all those who believe in Christ. Let us pray!
R.

C –For all those who have been enslaved by the devil through a life of sin: May the power of God's grace lead

them to start a life of faithfulness to the Gospel. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all those who have been victims of injustice and oppression: May the spirit of this Christmas Novena instill in their hearts thoughts of forgiveness and peace. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all Filipino families, particularly those victimized by forced separation and economic hardships: May they find in their Christian faith the strength they need to overcome the present difficulties. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all of us and those entrusted to our prayers: May the light of God's grace brighten our hearts and make us instruments of his saving love. Let us pray! **R.**

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

P –Lord God, You are the Faithful One and the source of all grace. Give us the strength that we need to honor our baptismal promises, especially during this Christmas Novena. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All–Amen!

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



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 –Lord, sanctify the gifts of your Church, that through these sacred mysteries our life may be renewed by the true bread from heaven.

Through Christ, our Lord.
All–Amen!

Preface of Advent II

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 all the oracles of the prophets foretold him, the Virgin Mother longed for him with love beyond all telling, John the Baptist sang of his coming and proclaimed his presence when he came.

It is by his gift that already we rejoice at the mystery of his Nativity, so that he may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in his praise.

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!

COMMUNION RITE



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, 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.)

Behold, the Desired of all the nations will come, and the house of the Lord will be filled with glory.

Prayer after Communion

P –God of power, you have fed us with heavenly gifts. Fill us now with this desire: that, aflame with your Spirit, we may shine like stars in the heavens at the coming of Christ your Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
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 keep you under His care, and brighten your days with the splendor of His presence.

All–Amen!

P –May He make you faithful as He is faithful.

All–Amen!

P –May He lead you to His promised Kingdom of heaven.

All–Amen!

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

All–Amen!

P –Go in peace to love and serve the Lord in your neighbor.

All–Thanks be to God!

GOD Carries Out His Plan in spite of Man's Unfaithfulness and Opposition

God is inexhaustible creativity, but He does not improvise. **Everything that He carries out in time is the actualization of a well thought-out plan that has its roots in God's eternal love.**

This important principle is applied and verified in the overall plan of our salvation which has its "center" in Jesus Christ, the Son of God who became a human being at the appointed time in the divine plan.

This event of exceptional importance for the whole of mankind (and for God Himself!) took place at the time of Emperor Augustus, some 2,000 years ago. The unfolding of this plan, however, started with the call of Abraham, about 18 centuries before Jesus Christ's birth.

To the pagan, childless Abram (later renamed **Abraham**), God revealed Himself, and promised him a prosperous homeland and a descent in whom all peoples of the earth would find a blessing. From that moment onward, as he left his native land, Abraham's life was characterized by a seemingly endless quest for the Land of the Promise and a heart-rending waiting for the gift of a son who would carry the torch of God's promise to the generations to come.

Abraham's faith in God's promise was rewarded with the birth of Isaac and, from him, of Jacob and Esau. Today's Gospel leads us in a "trip in time" over an arch of about 18 centuries, which starts with Abraham and ends with Jesus Christ, the Son of Mary and the legal son of Joseph, a distant descendant of David and Abraham.

In **the family line of Jesus**, there is a series of three sets of 14 generations each, whose representatives **include both great heroes and great sinners**, especially among the descendants of David in the period of the monarchy. The prevarications and moral aberrations of certain kings, such as Ahaz and Manasseh, would have been more than enough reason for God to withdraw the promise He made to Abraham and reiterated to David. But God did not give up on Israel. He remained faithful to the promise that a descendant of Abraham would "bring a blessing" to all nations, both Jews and non-Jews alike, i.e., salvation to the whole of mankind.

This means that **God's faithfulness was not thwarted by man's unfaithfulness**. That is why, "in the fullness of time" (i.e., at the designated time in God's plan), **the promised Messiah was conceived and born and was given the prophetic name JESUS – Savior**.

We have a lot to learn from God's persevering love and unshakable faithfulness to His great promise. **We have to learn to be grateful for the absolutely undeserved gift of the Messiah/Christ**. We have to learn **to derive inspiration from God's faithfulness** and to make it our guiding paradigm in this world characterized by so many forms of unfaithfulness and betrayal.

In a special manner, we have **to learn to be faithful to God by honoring our commitments** to Him. A faithful God deserves a faithful service. Let this Christmas Novena re-awaken in us the awareness of such a duty and instill in us the grace we need to fulfill it.

Jess P. Balon

Advent/Christmas Trivia

WHAT IS ADVENT?

Advent comes from the Latin word "adventus," which means "arrival" or "coming." It is a period of preparation for the birth of our Lord. It is the first "season" in the liturgical year of the Church. It lasts 4 weeks and is divided into two parts. The first is meant to remind us of the second coming of the Lord. The second part is meant to prepare us for the commemoration of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem (his first coming). The first Sunday of Advent also marks the beginning of the liturgical year, the Church's "New Year's Day," at which time we change the cycle of readings we are using at Mass.

Advent is a time of joyous anticipation, but also of penance and preparation for the great Christmas feast. The liturgical color of the season is purple, a sign of penance, which is also used during Lent.

WHO ESTABLISHED ADVENT?

Thomas J. Talley, in *The Origins of the Liturgical Year*,

sees the beginning of an advent season in the Fourth Canon of the Council of Saragosa in 380. In 567, the Synod of Tours established a December fast. And in 581 the Council of Macon ordered an advent fast for the laity from the Feast of St. Martin (November 11) to Christmas. This took the name of St. Martin's Lent.

In the seventh and eighth centuries, lectionaries (books containing the scriptural readings for the Liturgy of the Word) provided for six Sundays in Advent.

According to the Harper Collins Encyclopedia of Catholicism, **Gregory the Great**, who died in 604, **was the real architect of the Roman Advent**. Gregory fixed the season at **four weeks** and composed seasonal prayers and antiphons. Gaul (France) enriched the season with eschatological elements. The fusion of the Roman and Gallican observances returned to Rome by the 12th century and the liturgy of Advent has remained unaltered since then.

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