

ADVENT 2009 - WEEK 1

Look about - the Lord is coming and He will not delay!

PRESENCE of GOD

We pause and remember that You are always near. You are in the wind and the calm, the warmth and the cold, the sun and the moon and most of all, You O God are within each of us. Glory and praise to You, Father Creator, Redeeming Son, and Life-giving Spirit. Amen.

Luke 21:25-36

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." He taught them a lesson.

"Consider the fig tree and all the other trees. When their buds burst open, you see for yourselves and know that summer is now near; in the same way, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.

Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"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."



HYMN: THE PROMISE OF THE LORD

The promise of the Lord appears in righteousness
And justice comes again through God's sure faithfulness.
With eager hope and confidence
We come to claim deliverance.

We lift our souls to You, O God of steadfast love.
Teach us Your ways and will and show Your realm above:
With mercy bless, and our sins forgive
That we may turn and humbly live

We raise thanksgiving too, for all that we have received.
In joy we praise the One in Whom we have believed.
The Lord is Whom we come to meet
To make our faithfulness complete.

God's promise still endures. Redemption now draws near.
His coming we await for Love will soon appear.
In Christ is born the Child of grace
To hold the world in love's embrace.

REFLECTION

The first Sunday in Advent traditionally represents expectation or hope. It is a time when the church not only celebrates the hope of the coming Christ, but also yearns for healing and deliverance of a fallen and broken world. Consequently, on this Sunday, we, in anticipation of the coming Messiah, reflect on the wounds of the world that encompass sickness, war, injustice, discrimination, poverty, oppression, and all manner of evil.

The anticipation of the coming Messiah, however, is not a time for prayer and reflection alone; but rather, we, the church, must take an active role in reaching out to those who are crying out under the weight of despair.

The question becomes whether we can develop a language of love and a culture of compassion in our church and in our society where people can receive help, hope, and healing.

PRAVERS of INTERCESSION

We seek the mighty God in the most unlikely places
as a child in a stable, and in an empty tomb.

May God hear these prayers which come from the unlikely corners of our lives.

Response: Lord, come and save us.

That despite our fears, anxieties and failings, we will always look to You, O Lord...

That these four weeks of Advent time will bring each of us closer to the Lord and to one another...

That we will give up selfishness and look around and care for the needs of our brothers and sisters...

That we will be moved to lead lives worthy of the name Christian...

That this Advent season will inspire us to be people of prayer, sacrifice, good deeds and joy...

Give us ears to hear, O God, and eyes to watch, that we may know Your presence in our midst during this holy season of joy as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER

O God of all the prophets,

You herald the coming of the Son of Man
by wondrous signs in the heavens and on the earth.

Guard our hearts from despair so that we,
in the company of the faithful

and by the power of Your Holy Spirit,
may be found ready to raise our heads

at the coming near of our redemption, the day of Jesus Christ. Amen.



Be on the lookout - the Lord is near!

**Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
assist us in seeing the Lord in Scripture, Sacrament and One Another.**

Live Jesus in our hearts.

Forever!