



First Sunday Of Advent

The Doorkeepers

Introduction

Today we start a new liturgical year. During it the whole of Christ's life and teaching will pass before us. We've made the journey before; even so we must try to embark on it as if for the very first time. Advent, the beginning of the journey, calls us to wake up, to look at our service to God. We are his servants in whom he has placed enormous trust for our own lives, for those of others, and for the whole of his creation.

First Reading: (Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8)

This reading recalls God's past goodness to his people, while freely admitting the people's sinfulness. The dominant note, however, is one of confidence in God who alone can save his people.

Second Reading: (1 Cor 1:3-9)

As we await the coming of Christ in glory, the Holy Spirit will keep us steadfast as we bear witness to him in our lives.

Gospel: (Mark 13:33-37)

This urges us to stay awake at our appointed tasks, because we simply do not know the day or the hour when the Master will return.

Prayer Of The Faithful

For those people who with their lips call themselves Christians, but who deny it by the way they live. We pray in faith.

R: Lord hear us in your love.

For all those who hold positions of trust and honour in our country but who betray both by their deeds. We pray in faith.

R: Lord hear us in your love.

That those who find life a burden too heavy to carry may find strength and hope. We pray in faith.



R: Lord hear us in your love.

That the coming of Christ may find us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love. We pray in faith.

R: Lord hear us in your love.

Communion Reflection:

Advent: a time of hope.

It is said that while there is life
there is hope.

This has even a deeper meaning in reverse:
while there is hope there is life.
Hope comes first, life follows on.

Hope gives power to life,
for hope is strength,
The amount of energy in the world
is equal to the amount of hope in it.

Hope sheds light into millions of despairing hearts
It is the miracle medicine of the mind.
It inspires the will to live.
It is the doctor's most powerful ally.

It is a shield against defeat and failure.
It never sounds the retreat.
It revives ideals and renews dreams.
As long as there is hope,
no situation is impossible.

Advent summons us
to wait in joyful hope.
for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Lord, in the final analysis,
you are our only hope.