



Liturgy Cycle C

First Sunday Of Advent

Doing Our Winter Work

Introduction

As we begin Advent we naturally think of the coming of Christ. We live between two comings of Christ – his first coming in humility and weakness, and his second coming in majesty and power. With each passing year, as St. Paul says, 'our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.' Let us reflect for a moment on how much we need the Lord's salvation in our lives and in the world.

The Lord lives on in his Church. Let us turn to him with confidence; asking him to make the salvation he won for us a reality.

You bring us wisdom, fresh understanding and new vision.
Lord, have mercy.

You bring us the good news, and the power which will transform our lives.
Christ, have mercy.

You bring us the truth, showing us the way to eternal life.
Lord, have mercy.

First Reading (Jeremiah 33:14-16)

The prophet says that a time will come when God will be true to his promise. The Son of David (The Messiah) will stand among his people. His reign will be marked by wisdom, justice and integrity.

Second Reading (1 Thess 3:12-4:2)

Paul prays that the Lord may deepen the love the Thessalonians have for each other, a love that will then reach out to all people. Thus they will be ready for the second coming of Christ.

Gospel (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36)

In language borrowed from the Old Testament Luke describes the final coming of Christ. Christians should not fear this. Rather, they should look forward to it and prepare for it through prayer and right living.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray to our heavenly Father that the salvation won for us by Christ may be ours.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

For the Church: that it may continue to act as a beacon of hope for the world, directing it towards Christ and his kingdom. Let us pray.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.



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For all the leaders of the world: that they may speak and act in a way that promotes justice and peace. Let us pray.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

For all those who live without faith and who are going through a winter of despair: that the light of Christ may shine for them. Let us pray.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

That we who recognise Christ as our Saviour, and who await his second coming in joyful hope, may follow him in our lives. Let us pray.

R: Come, Lord Jesus.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, deliver us from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord.

Sign Of Peace

Lord Jesus Christ, the night before you died, as you sat at table with your friends, you said to them: 'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give you. A peace which the world cannot give, this is my gift to you.' Help us to live free from anxiety and fear, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live and reign for ever and ever.

Communion Reflection

**Today, on a bus, I saw a girl with golden hair;
I envied her and wished I were as fair.
When suddenly she rose to leave I saw her hobble down the aisle;
she had one leg and wore a crutch, but as she passed — a smile.
O God, forgive me when I whine,
I have two legs the world is mine.**

**I stopped to buy some candy; the lad who sold it had such charm;
I talked with him; if I were late't would do no harm.
And as I left he said: "I thank you, "you have been so kind;
it's nice to talk with folks like you — you see, I'm blind.'
O God forgive men when I whine,
I have two eyes the world is mine.**

**Later, on the street, I saw a child with eyes of blue;
he stood and watched the others play, now knowing what to do.
I stopped a moment, then I said: 'Why don't you join the others, dear?'
He looked ahead without a word, and then I knew he could not hear.
O God forgive me when I whine,
I have two ears the world is mine.**

**With feet to take me where I'd go, with eyes to see the sunset's glow,
with ears to hear what I would know, I'm blessed indeed, the world is mine.**