

ST. THOMAS INDIAN MISSION

First Sunday of Advent C
November 28, 2021

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Fr. George "of the desert" Decasa
Pastor

Entrance Hymn: — 311
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(verses 1-3)

Recessional Hymn: — 311
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(verses 4-7)

SATURDAYS:

3:15 pm to 4:15 pm – Holy Hour
3:45 pm to 4:15 pm – Confessions
4:30 pm – HOLY MASS

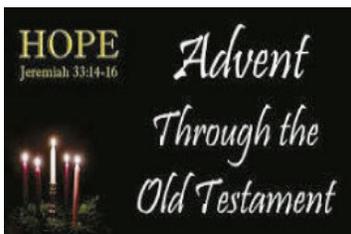
SUNDAYS:

7:15 am to 8:15 am – Holy Hour
7:45 am to 8:15 am – Confessions
8:30 am – HOLY MASS

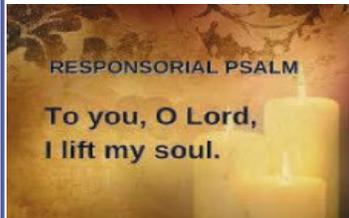


*appreciation that
each day of our
lives is spent
longing for that*

*Advent is a time
for new beginnings
meant to make us
grow in the*



*moment when we
shall see the Lord
face to face. Let us
begin anew, living a*



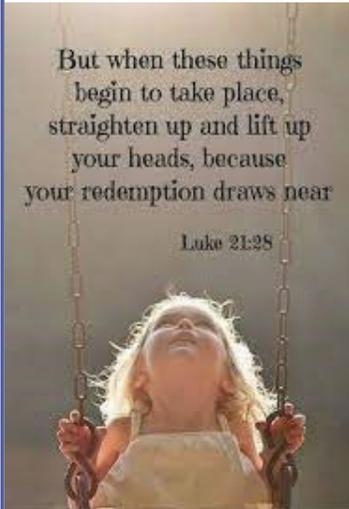
RESPONSORIAL PSALM
To you, O Lord,
I lift my soul.

*life that is watchful
and prepared for
the Lord's coming.
The first step would*



"Abound in love for one
another and for all."
(1 Thessalonians 3:12 -- 4:2)

*be our return to
God's grace via the
sacrament of
reconciliation.*



But when these things
begin to take place,
straighten up and lift up
your heads, because
your redemption draws near
Luke 21:28



THE IMPORTANCE OF
WATCHING AND PRAYING
Luke 21:34-36

Universal Prayers

CELEBRANT: Waiting for the Lord's return, we lift our prayers to God, who answers all our needs.

LECTOR:

For the whole Church, that we may prepare our hearts for Christ coming into our lives again and again, but especially during this holy season of Advent, let us pray to the Lord.

For leaders of countries around the world, that they may strive to do what is right and just in their lands, let us pray to the Lord.

For the courage to celebrate this season as more than a time for holiday commercialism or sentimentalism, let us pray to the Lord.

For our Jewish brothers and sisters, as they begin the celebration of Hanukkah at sundown on Sunday evening, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who are in prison, and for all people who are not free, that they may find comfort and hope in the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who have lost their lives in acts of violence, and for the loved ones who mourn their loss, let us pray to the Lord.

For all those in our community whose illness, grieving or personal needs overshadow Advent yearning and hope, let us pray to the Lord.

CELEBRANT: God of all, look lovingly upon us during this season of expectant waiting, and graciously respond to our prayers through your Son, Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Mystery of Faith:

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again.

THE READINGS . . . SOME REFLECTIONS . . . AND GUIDEPOSTS.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of the Lord, whom we portray as a precious infant in a simple manger at the end of this season.

But there are two more arrivals of our Lord to contemplate during this season of preparation and they tend to be overlooked.

One day Jesus Christ will come again in glory as the world ends and he delivers his final judgment. He gives a glimpse of this to his disciples in today's Gospel.

But let us also consider his third appearance—to each of us personally, into our hearts and into our lives as we embrace him as his disciples.

As we celebrate today, let us consider how we can welcome him ever more intimately into our lives.

1st Reading – Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah. ¹⁵In those days, in that time, I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land. ¹⁶In 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 (Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14)

"To you, O Lord, I lift my soul."

⁴Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths, ⁵Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior, and for you I wait all the day.

R.

⁸Good and upright is the LORD; thus he shows sinners the way. ⁹He guides the humble to justice, and teaches the humble his way.

R.

¹⁰All the paths of the LORD are kindness and constancy toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

¹⁴The friendship of the LORD is with those who fear him, and his covenant, for their instruction.

R.

2nd Reading – 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Brothers and sisters: ¹²May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, ¹³so 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.

¹Finally, 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. ²For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia – (Psalm 85:8)

Lector: Alleluia, alleluia. **All:** Alleluia, alleluia.

Lector: Show us, Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation.

All: Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: ²⁵"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. ²⁶People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.

³⁴"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 ³⁵like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. ³⁶Be 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.

BE VIGILANT AT ALL TIMES!

Advent means "coming" – the coming of the Lord Jesus. The season of *Advent looks back to the past* and prepares us for the feast of Christmas which commemorates Jesus' first coming as man among us.

Advent also highlights the present and reminds us of the varied ways by which Jesus comes into our lives.

Advent finally points to the future: the glorious coming of Christ at the end of the age, his second coming, technically known as the *parousia*. That Christ will come again at the end of the age is certain; when that will be is uncertain.

Today's Gospel gives a description of the end time which presupposes two kinds of expectations.

For those who live a life without God, who do not live according to the values of the kingdom but according to the values of this world, the end will be a frightening day. This is precisely because they see the end time as the end of the world and its values.

For those who live a life with God, those who remain faithful to God, the end time is a day of rejoicing. This is precisely because they see the end time as the return of the Son of Man, Jesus the Lord. In other words, they will see the same things as will those who have been unfaithful to God, but they will see a radically different reality.

The early Christians captured the theology of the Lord's coming with the Aramaic word *Maranatha*. How the word is divided brings out a different meaning:

When read as *Maran-atha*, it means "The Lord has come," and refers to Jesus' first historical and humble coming some two thousand years ago.

When read as *Marana-tha*, it means "Our Lord, come," and refers to Jesus' second coming or *parousia*, at the end of time.

Today, therefore, we are reminded that our Christian life is lived out between the two comings of Jesus, while professing His actual presence among us. Thus, in the Eucharist which is the source and summit of the Christian life, we proclaim: "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again."

In other words, Advent asks us to *look forward* (to the end times), *back* (to the Bethlehem journey), and *within* (to our hearts) and *discover* in all three one thing: God is with us. Emmanuel.

Saint Paul's prayer for the Thessalonians (today's second reading) would be good to keep in mind as we become overwhelmed with the busyness of the holidays. "May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all" (1 Thessalonians 3:12).

When we stress out during a long day of Christmas shopping, it can help to think of the love we have for the ones we're shopping for.

We can also show our love for all people by buying gifts for those who cannot afford to do so themselves.

May this season concentrate our attention on how we treat each other, for we know that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, we do for the Lord.

The Gospel seems out of place in another sense today. Today is the First Sunday of Advent, the *start* of the new liturgical year. Yet the Gospel passage is all about the *end* of the world. The instruction for both is the same, however: prepare. We are called to be prepared and be ready at all times, whether marking a beginning or anticipating an eventual end.

Question of the Week:

How can I prepare myself for the coming of Jesus, at Christmas and at the end of time?

Mother Teresa of Calcutta says:

I am not sure exactly what heaven will be like, but I know that when we die and it comes time for God to judge us, he will not ask, 'How many good things have you done in your life?' rather he will ask, 'How much love did you put into what you did?'

Be Prepared and Be Ready at All Times.

We tend to think of Advent as the four-week season we use to prepare for the anniversary of the coming of Jesus into the world two thousand years ago.

But the Gospel today — the First Sunday of Advent, focuses on the Second Coming of Jesus, an event in the future. Because we cannot anticipate when this will happen, we need to be prepared at all times. Luke warns us that "the anxieties of daily life" (Luke 21:34) can easily distract us. It's as if he realized how busy the holidays would become!



Poor Mass Attendance

One lady said about the poor attendance in their parish church. "It gets so bad sometimes," she remarked, "that when the priest says, 'Dearly Beloved,' it makes me blush!"

Coming to Church

"Nice to see you're coming to church again," said the parish priest, meeting a parishioner in the street. "Is it because of my sermons?"

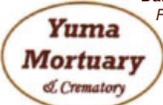
"Not yours," was the reply. "My wife's."

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