

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame. (*cf. Ps 25 (24) :1-3*)

*The Gloria in excelsis (Glory to God in the highest) is not said.*

### COLLECT

Let us pray (*pause*)

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom.

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. R. Amen.

*The Creed is said.*

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below gain for us the prize of eternal redemption.

Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

## PREFACE I OF ADVENT

*(The two comings of Christ)*

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 he assumed at his first coming the lowliness of human flesh, and so fulfilled the design you formed long ago, and opened for us the way to eternal salvation, that, when he comes again in glory and majesty and all is at last made manifest, we who watch for that day may inherit the great promise in which now we dare to hope.

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:

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase. *(Ps 85 (84) : 13)*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray *(pause)*

May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated, profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures.

Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

## SOLEMN BLESSING

Bow down for the blessing.

*(The priest, with hands extended over the people, says the blessing.)*

May the almighty and merciful God, by whose grace you have placed your faith in the First Coming of his Only Begotten Son and yearn for his coming again, sanctify you by the radiance of Christ's Advent and enrich you with his blessing.

R. Amen.

As you run the race of this present life, may he make you firm in faith, joyful in hope and active in charity.

R. Amen.

So that, rejoicing now with devotion at the Redeemer's coming in the flesh, you may be endowed with the rich reward of eternal life when he comes again in majesty.

R. Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

R. Amen.

## READINGS

## Year A

FIRST READING *(The Lord will gather all nations into the eternal peace of the kingdom of God.)*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (2:1-5)

This is what Isaiah, son of Amoz, saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest mountain and raised above the hills. All nations shall stream toward it; many peoples shall come and say: "Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths." For from Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and impose terms on many peoples. They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord! —The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9)

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced because they said to me, "We will go up to the house of the Lord." And now we have set foot within your gates, O Jerusalem. (R)

Jerusalem, built as a city with compact unity. To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. (R)

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

According to the decree for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord. In it are set up judgment seats, seats for the house of David. (R)

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May those who love you prosper! May peace be within your walls, prosperity in your buildings. (R)

Because of my brothers and friends I will say, "Peace be within you!" Because of the house of the Lord, our God, I will pray for your good. (R)

SECOND READING *(Our salvation is nearer.)*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (13:11-14)

Brothers and sisters: You know the time; it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and lust, not in rivalry and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh. —The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Ps 85:8)*

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Show us Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation. (R)

GOSPEL (*Stay awake, that you may be prepared!*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (24:37-44)

Jesus said to his disciples: "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." —The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

### Year B

FIRST READING (*Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down!*)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah (63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7)

You, Lord, are our father; our redeemer you are named forever. Why do you let us wander, O Lord, from your ways, and harden our hearts so that we fear you not? Return for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your heritage. Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope

for, such as they had not heard of from of old. No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you doing such deeds for those who wait for him. Would that you might meet us doing right, that we were mindful of you in our ways! Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful; all of us have become like unclean people, all our good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. There is none who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to cling to you; for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us up to our guilt. Yet, O Lord, you are our father; we are the clay and you are the potter: we are all the work of your hands. —The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19)

R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. (*Ps 80:4*)

O shepherd of Israel, hearken; from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth. Rouse your power, and come to save us. (*R*)

Once again, O Lord of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted: the son of man whom you yourself made strong. (*R*)

May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong. Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name. (*R*)

SECOND READING (*We wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.*)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians (1:3-9)

Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. —The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Ps 85:8*)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Show us, Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation. (R)

GOSPEL (*Be watchful! You do not know when the Lord of the house is coming.*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (13:33-37)

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you

sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all; Watch!" —The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Year C

FIRST READING (*I will raise up for David a just shoot.*)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah (33:14-16)

The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah. In 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. In 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.

R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14)

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul. (*Ps 25:1b*)

Your ways, O Lord, make known to me; teach me your paths, guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior, and for you I wait all the day. (R)

Good and upright is the Lord; thus he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice, and teaches the humble his way. (R)

All the paths of the Lord are kindness and constancy toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees. The friendship of the Lord is with those who fear him; and his covenant, for their instruction. (R)

SECOND READING (*May the Lord strengthen your hearts at the coming of our Lord Jesus.*)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians  
(3:12- 4:2)

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

Finally, 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. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. —The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*Ps 85:8*)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Show us, Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation. (*R*)

GOSPEL (*Your redemption is at hand.*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (21:25-28, 34-36)

Jesus said to his disciples: “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 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.

“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.” —The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.