



# Hosanna



Vol. 4

SUNDAY LITURGY

No. 1

02-12-2018

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Year C

## INTRODUCTION

“Be watchful” and “Be alert”. Dear brethren, Advent is a time to prepare ourselves for the celebration of the Lord’s first coming (Christmas). But it is incomplete if one does not meditate upon the second coming of Christ (Parousia). Jesus is the promised messiah who has opened the gates of heaven for all. When our pilgrimage on earth ends we must be ready to meet the lord in his glory? We must keep the faith burning and avoid taking the extremes of spiritual pride or spiritual laxity. Let us realize this truth and worthily participate in this Eucharistic celebration.

## 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. (*Ps 24:1-3*)

## COLLECT

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.

## FIRST READING

*Today’s first reading is a prophecy of a “righteous branch” springing up from the line of David. The armies of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, are advancing on Jerusalem. Many people will be killed. The prophet Jeremiah himself is imprisoned. The city is doomed. But Yahweh promises that His peoples’ suffering will be ended by the messiah who will rise among them and restore the justice to the oppressed.*

## A reading from the Book of Jeremiah 33:14-16

“Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring forth for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The Lord is our righteousness’.”

*The Word of the Lord*

## Responsorial Psalm

**24:4bc-5ab, 8-9, 10, 14**

**Response: To you, Lord, I lift up my soul.**

Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me

walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour.

**Response: To you, Lord, I lift up my soul.**

The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray. He guides the humble in the right path: he teaches his way to the poor.

**Response: To you, Lord, I lift up my soul.**

His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and will. The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him; to them he reveals his covenant..

**Response: To you, Lord, I lift up my soul.**

## SECOND READING

*Today's second reading is a prayer of St Paul for the Thessalonians that they may be holy when our Lord comes again. He implores them to love one another and build fraternal relationship so that they may be worthy to join Jesus and the communion of saints. They are urged to imitate the brotherly love exhibited by St Paul and the other leaders of the Church.*

**A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians**

**3:12–4:2**

Brethren, may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all men, as we do to you; so that he may establish your hearts unblamable in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. Finally, brethren, we beseech and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you learned from us how you ought to live and to please God, just as you are doing, you do so more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

*The Word of the Lord*

**ALLELUIA (Ps 84:8)**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## GOSPEL READING

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke**

**21:25-28, 34-36**

Jesus said to his disciples: "And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth distress of nations in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on 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. Now when these things begin to take place, look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

"But take heed to yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a snare; for it will come upon all who dwell upon the face of the whole earth. But watch at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

*The Gospel of the Lord*

## HOMILY

### NICENE CREED

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

**Celebrant:** At the beginning of the new liturgical year, let us pray to the Father who sent His Son to be our Saviour and redeemer. With hope and trust in his loving kindness let us put forth our intentions.

## **Response: LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

1. Let us pray for our Holy Father Francis, our Archbishop Peter, Priests and Religious that they may lead the expectant Church to worthily meet the Lord when he will come again in glory. *Our response*

2. Let us pray for our leaders that they may act with integrity and keep God's ways in mind as they make decisions affecting those they are appointed to serve. *Our Response*

3. Let us pray for the Nations where there is war, poverty and human suffering, that their troubles may soon be a distant memory for them. May this Advent season light up the lives of those who suffer from anxiety and sickness of mind or body. *Our response*

4. Let us pray for our Parish community and for each one of us that we may watch and remain alert to those within who are feeling isolated, hurt or alone during this Advent season. Let us stay awake and alert to utilize opportunities for forgiveness and special chances of love for others. *Our response*

**Celebrant:** Graciously hear the prayers of your family, most merciful Father. Amidst all the turmoil and change in our lives, we wait for the coming of your Son, who lives and reigns forever and ever. **Amen.**

## **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.

## **PREFACE I (ADVENT)**

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 84:13)*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.

## **REFLECTION**

God communicates to us through nature. Bible is filled with theophanic symbols that reveal to us the glory of God which is otherwise imperceptible to human beings. Old Testament is full of such theophany which reveals to us the relationship between an all-powerful God and puny human beings. Clouds, wind, fire, water and thunder are some theophanies used when the omnipotent visited

the simple chosen people. The gospel that we heard today also uses such symbols to communicate the glorious second coming of Christ. It continues to exhort us to meet the Son of Man with living faith in his promises as against disbelief or hopelessness.

After the resurrection of our Lord the early Christians were ready to give away every possession and wealth as they believed that the second coming of Jesus was very close at hand (imminent parousia). But when there was a delay in the expected return of Jesus the believers began to lose hope and their faith depleted with time. Thus we see that St Paul warned them against faithlessness every now and then and urged them to stay awake and be prepared to receive Jesus whenever he comes in glory. Therefore advent comes with a **twofold agenda**. Firstly, to commemorate the fulfillment of the messianic promise in the birth of Jesus (Christmas) and secondly to evaluate our readiness to meet the Lord face to face when he comes again (Parousia). Jesus himself said that no one knows the time or the hour for the Son of man will come like a thief unexpected and sudden. And to understand the urgency with which we should anticipate the Lord's return in glory, Jesus compares us to servants awaiting their master's return but not knowing exactly when it will happen. This uncertainty should not leave us

being terrified of the future. Rather, it should impel us to live in such a way that whenever Jesus returns, we will be found ready and waiting. Our whole lives should be an ongoing preparation to meet Jesus whenever He returns in glory.

### **How can we make use of Advent to become better prepared?**

Firstly, Advent is similar to lent as it is a penitential season of preparation. Therefore making voluntary penances is among the most effective ways of being watchful and alert during this season. Secondly, one could identify the poor and extend a charitable hand as Christmas is all about sharing and caring. Happy are we if we could see Christ in the poor because what is done to them is done to Christ himself. Finally, we could spend time meditating upon the joyful mysteries of the rosary, reading the infancy narratives in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke and praying around an Advent wreath in the home which is all traditional ways of getting ready to receive our Savior. Thus prayer, fasting and almsgiving will help us give birth to Christ in our hearts and keep him every living within us.

**-- Rev. Fr. Clement Deep**

*Imprimatur*

**+ Peter Machado**

**Archbishop of Bangalore**

---

*Published by:*

**Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission**

Paalanaa Bhavana

5, Nandidurg Road, Jayamahala Extension, Benson Town Post,  
Bangaluru 560046,