



Hosanna



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SUNDAY LITURGY

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Year C

INTRODUCTION

Dear brethren, Advent is the time not only for making external preparations for the feast of Christmas; it is also for inner reflection, to prepare ourselves for a conversion from within. Today's Gospel gives us an answer to the question: How can we prepare ourselves worthily for the coming of Christ? That is by having a conversion of heart - by turning away from sin and turning towards God. Let us turn towards the Lord during this Holy season of Advent and prepare ourselves to receive Him into our hearts. For this grace let us pray in this Holy Eucharistic celebration.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O people of Zion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.

(Isa 30:19,30)

COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God, may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son, but may our learning of heavenly wisdom gain us admittance to his company. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

FIRST READING

In today's 1st reading Prophet Baruch proclaims to his people who live in Exile the message of hope, that is, the return to freedom. God thinks of His people and shows His faithfulness and glory to all nations.

A reading from the Book of Baruch

5:1-9

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting. For God will show your splendour everywhere under heaven. For your name will for ever be called by God, "Peace of righteousness and glory of godliness." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look towards the east, and see your children gathered from west and east, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went forth from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have

shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

125: 1-2ab, 2cd, 3, 4-5, 6.

Response: What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs.

Response: What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

The heathens themselves said: "What marvels the Lord worked for them?" What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Response: What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.

Response: What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing; they come back, they come back, full of songs, carrying their sheaves.

Response: What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

SECOND READING

In today's 2nd reading St. Paul exhorts the community of Philippi to increase in mutual love and in the knowledge of Jesus and to become

pure and blameless for the day of Christ, so that it can confidently face the Day of Judgment.

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Philippians

1:3-6, 8-11

Brethren, I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruits of righteousness which come through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord

ALLELUIA (Lk 3:4, 6)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke **3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias Tetrarch of Abilene, in the high-

priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness; and he went into all the region about the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

The Gospel of the Lord

HOMILY

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PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Let us pray to God our Father who wants to create in us a new heart and a new spirit.

Response: LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

1. Let us pray for our Holy Father Francis, our Archbishop Peter, Priests and religions that they may be effective instruments of God in bringing people back to Him by their preaching, teaching and exemplary lives. *Our response*

2. Let us pray for all the Leaders of the world, that they may have change of heart, in governing the people and that they may be service oriented towards people entrusted to their care. *Our response*

3. Let us pray for all sinners in the world who willingly and knowingly turn away from God's love, that they may experience God in their personal life, come back to Him, and be a living witness for others. *Our response*

4. Let us pray for our Parish community and for each one of us

that we may have conversion of heart by turning away from sin and turning towards God thus prepare ourselves to meet the Lord. *Our response*

Celebrant: God of mercy and compassion, we humbly ask you to grant the favours that we ask you in prayer. Give us a heart of flesh that we may turn towards you and be worthy to receive the Lord into our hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble prayers and offerings, and, since we have no merits to plead our cause, come, we pray, to our rescue with the protection of your mercy. 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

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God

(Bar 5:5; 4:36).

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Replenished by the food of spiritual nourishment, we humbly beseech you, O Lord, that, through our partaking in this mystery, you may teach us to judge wisely the things of earth and hold firm to the things of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

REFLECTION

The Advent Season invites us to self-examination leading to self-reform. Advent is a challenge to repentance. It is a challenge to do something for God. We have some crazy ideas about repentance. Some have the idea that repentance is feeling guilty or feeling sorry for not trying to be a better person. This is just a part of repentance but not the total understanding of repentance at all.

True repentance is: We are sorry to God because we have sinned against Him. We are not sorry because we are caught or we are punished, but we are not sorry because we have hurt someone else. We are sorry because of God, because he loves us more than we realize and we have played a dirty trick on Him when we sinned. God is faithful in loving us but we have been unfaithful lovers in return (Ps 51:4).

And so it is not enough that we feel guilty, or being sorry for our sins, and making empty promises to repent

rather we must show it in action by honestly accepting our sinfulness. Even psychologist would tell us that the beginning of all real conversion and change is the acceptance of what we have done. Only in truth can repentance begin. Therefore, let us not justify our sins rather in truth accept it. Then and only then the conversion is possible. We need to take ‘U’ turn in life. The Greek Philosopher Socrates would say “the unexamined life is not worth living” and so let us examine our lives, let us turn away from sin and turn towards God. How to do it? Practice it minute-by-minute, hour-by-hour, day-by-day. Practice the beautiful, loving, caring person God made us to be. Then we can be sure that the “morally crooked ways” in our lives will be straightened and the “rough edges” of our character will be smoothed.

- Rev. Fr. A. Mariyadoss MSsCc

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