

fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.'

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## HOMILY

### PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED

*Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

**I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:*

**R. Blessed be God for ever.**

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. 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.**

### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

**R. We lift them up to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**R. It is right and just.**

### PREFACE I OF ADVENT

*After the Preface, we sing or say:*

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

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

### COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .**

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .

**All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .

**R. Amen.**

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace*

### LAMB OF GOD

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON Ps 84: 13

**The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. 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.**

### THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit.**

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

### BREAKING OPEN THE WORD

#### FAITH IN GOD'S PROMISE

The Portuguese have a proverb that 'God writes straight with crooked lines.' We know that it is not always easy to discern what God is writing. Our world, indeed our own lives, can be marked by so many contradictions and tensions. Can there be faith in the midst of disappointment? Can there be hope in the face of suffering? The readings for today agree in proclaiming that the answer is 'yes' for the person of faith.

Jeremiah writes words of hope and promise in the midst of the massive upheaval and loss of faith that accompanied the people of Israel going into exile in 587BC. To speak words of faith in the face of such horror and disappointment would have required a great deal of faith indeed.

Paul's letter to the Thessalonians was written only some twenty years after the death of Jesus at a time when the earliest Christians believed that the Lord Jesus would return at any moment. Paul advises them about how best to prepare and encourages them to keep their vision and commitment while they are waiting. Some twenty years later Luke's Christians ran the risk of being discouraged due to the delay in the return of the Lord. They found themselves fearful of that day when the Lord Jesus would return and needed encouragement and consolation. Luke reminds them of Jesus' words, to give them hope so that when he returns, he will find them confident and hopeful, ready and waiting.

CHRISTOPHER MONAGHAN CP

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# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / C

28 NOVEMBER 2021

YOUR LIBERATION IS NEAR! The early Christians expected the Lord's return in glory to be very soon. St Paul explained to them that the Lord was delaying in coming for a good purpose, to give them the opportunity to grow in love and make progress in the kind of life they were meant to live. May we also make good use of the present time to deepen our love for one another that we may be ready on the day Christ comes to set us free.

### INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Cf. Ps 24:1-3

**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.**

### GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**R. Amen.**

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**R. And with your spirit.**

### PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

**All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, (striking the breast) through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**R. Amen.**

V. Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

V. Christ, have mercy.

**R. Christ, have mercy.**

V. Lord, have mercy.

**R. Lord, have mercy.**

*The Gloria is not said during Advent.*

### COLLECT

P. 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, God, for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

#### FIRST READING

Jer 33:14-16

**A reading from the prophet Jeremiah**

*I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.*

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

'In those days and at that time,

I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land.

In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence.

And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.'

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

#### RESP PSALM

Ps 24:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14. R. v. 1

**R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.**

1. 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. **R.**

2. 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. **R.**

3. 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. **R.**

#### SECOND READING

1 Thess 3:12-4:2

**A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians**

*When Christ comes may he strengthen your hearts in holiness.*

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the



whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

**The word of the Lord.**

**R. Thanks be to God.**

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 84:8

**Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!**

#### GOSPEL

Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

P. The Lord be with you.

**R. And with your spirit**

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Your redemption is near at hand.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of