



OPENING PRAYER

+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Father God, thank you for this time with you. May the Holy Spirit be upon me, that I may receive wisdom from your Word, be open to Your holy Will and give glory to You always. Through Christ our Lord, Amen
Our Father + Hail Mary + Glory Be

LECTIO DIVINA

Invite the Holy Spirit - Read - Reflect - Respond in Prayer - Rest in Silence

Gospel 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!'"

What is Jesus warning us about? Why is there such an urgency? What will you do to get ready? Are you prepared to give an account of the work God entrusts to you for His Kingdom? How will you maintain readiness?

Reading 1 - 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 the potter: we are all the work of your hands.

God is deserving of our reverence and awe. How should we respond to God's presence in our lives? God's hidden face reveals the breakdown in our relationship with Him. What is penitential piety? In what ways do we allow God to shape our lives?

RESPONSORIAL PSALM RESPONSE:

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Reading II 1 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.

St. Paul emphasizes that God is faithful - how do we express trust in God's providence? Repentance and transformation leads to a deeper relationship with God. How do we stay holy? How can we stay in fellowship with Jesus?

Notes

Spiritual Preparation for Advent

- a. **Confession** – since Catholics are encouraged to go to confession at least twice a year, many choose to do this before Easter and Christmas. Parishes may offer communal penance services during this time. This is an incredible way to prepare to receive Jesus by acknowledging our sins in order to fully experience His love for us at Christmas!
- b. **Eucharistic Adoration** – though not a strictly Advent practice, time spent with the Lord opens us up to receive Him with great joy.
- c. **Advent Examen** – similar to the Daily Examen, this helps us reflect daily and prepare for the Lord, but from the perspective of the Christ-child
- d. **Scriptures and devotional books for Advent** – We can prepare spiritually by setting aside time to read, pray and meditate. Advent devotionals offer daily reflections and prayers to open up our minds and hearts to the coming Lord. One way to use the Bible is to read the Gospel of Luke, beginning with the first chapter on December 1st. Reading one chapter a day, Luke’s gospel concludes on Christmas Day. The first few chapters of Luke’s gospel focus on Mary’s role and includes seven stories pertaining to events surrounding Jesus’ birth and childhood.

Feast days this week

3	Sun	Saint Francis Xavier, priest
4	Mon	Saint John of Damascus
5	Tue	Saint Sabas
6	Wed	Saint Nicholas
7	Thu	Saint Ambrose
8	Fri	Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary * HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
9	Sat	Saint Juan Diego



reflect

Be mindful of the many ways God is reaching out to you this week.

pray

Father God, help me to receive your grace, that I may always remain close to you. Through Christ our Lord, Amen

live

Think of little and significant ways you can grow closer to God this Advent season.