

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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Station at St. Mary Major.

Today begins the liturgical cycle of the Roman Missal. The Incarnation is the true central point which divides the course of the ages. By the period of preparation called Advent, the ages before Christ and leading us to His birth are recalled. Following the feast of Christmas, the great events in the life of Christ and the ages that lead toward the final judgment are kept in mind. The Missal, therefore, is logically sequenced and corresponds closely to this lofty concept of history, by which the Incarnation is made the true central event in the world's drama. The early Christians began their liturgical cycle with the festival of Christmas; the present arrangement beginning with Advent came into use towards the middle of the fifth century.

The Introit gives eloquent expression to the feelings of humanity, cast down, yet full of hope, and begs the Savior to bring it back into the path which leads to Bethlehem, along the way of truth and justice. The Epistle calls upon us after our period of slackness and spiritual lethargy to rise from sleep. The Church in the Gospel connects the second coming of Our Lord at the end of the world with his first appearance at Bethlehem as Our Redeemer. At one time the *Dies irae*, *dies illa*, now used in masses for the dead, was sung on this day before the Gospel.

INTROIT Psalms 24: 1-3

Ad te levávi ánimam meam: Deus meus, in te confído, non erubéscam: neque irrideant me inimíci mei: étenim univérsi, qui te expéctant, non confundéntur. (Ps.24: 4) Vias tuas, Dómine, demónstra mihi: et sémitas tuas édoce me. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spíritui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen. Ad te levávi ánimam meam: Deus meus, in te confído, non erubéscam: neque irrideant me inimíci mei: étenim univérsi, qui te expéctant, non confundéntur.

COLLECT

Excíta, quæsumus, Dómine, poténtiam tuam, et veni: ut ab imminéntibus peccatórum nostrórum perículis, te mereámur protegénte éripi, te liberánte salvári. Qui vivis et regnas, cum Deo Patre in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

EPISTLE Romans 13: 11-14

Fratres: Sciéntes, quia hora est jam nos de somno súrgere. Nunc enim própior est nostra salus, quam cum credídimus. Nox præcésit, dies autem appropinquávit. Abjiciámus ergo ópera tenebrárum, et induámur arma lucis. Sicut in die honéste ambulémus: non in comessatióibus et ebrietátibus, non in cubílibus et impudiciis, non in contentiône et æmulatióne: sed induimini Dóminum Jesum Christum.

GRADUAL Psalms 24: 3, 4

Univérsi qui te expéctant, non confundéntur, Dómine. Vias tuas, Dómine, notas fac mihi: et sémitas tuas édoce me.

LESSER ALLELUIA

Allelúja, allelúja. Osténde nobis, Dómine, misericórdiam tuam: et salutáre tuum da nobis. Allelúja.

GOSPEL Luke 21: 25-33

In illo témpore: Dixit Jesus discipulis suis: Erunt signa in sole, et luna, et stellis, et in terris pressúra géntium præ confusióne sónitus maris et flúctuum: arescéntibus homínibus præ tímóre et expectatióne, quæ supervénient univérso orbi: nam virtútes cælórum movebúntur. Et tunc vidébunt Fílium hóminis veniéntem in nube cum potestáte magna, et majestáte. His autem fieri incipiéntibus, respícite, et leváte cápita vestra: quóniam appropínquat redéemptio vestra. Et dixit illis similitúdinem: Vidéte ficúlneam et omnes árbores: cum producunt jam ex se fructum, scitis quóniam prope est æstas. Ita et vos cum vidéritis hæc fieri, scitóte quóniam prope est regnum Dei. Amen dico vobis, quia non præteríbit generátio hæc, donec ómnia fiant. Cælum et terra transibunt: verba autem mea non transibunt.

OFFERTORY Psalms 24: 1-3

Ad te levávi ánimam meam: Deus meus, in te confído, non erubéscam: neque irrideant me inimíci mei: étenim univérsi, qui te expéctant, non confundéntur.

SECRET

Hæc sacra nos, Dómine, poténti virtúte mundátos, ad suum faciánt purióres veníre princípium. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PREFACE OF ADVENT

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper, et ubique grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnipotens, ætérne Deus: per Christum Dóminum nostrum. Quem pèrdito hóminum géneri Salvatórem miséricors et fidélis promisiisti: cujus véritas instrúeret íncios, sánctitas justificáret ímpios, virtus adjuváret infirmos. Dum ergo prope est ut véniat quem missúrus es, et dies affúlget liberatiónis nostræ, in hac promissiónum tuárum fide, piis gáudiis exultámus. Et ideo cum Ángelis et Archángelis, cum Thronis et Dominatióibus, cumque omni militia cæléstis exércitus, hymnum glóriæ tuæ cánimus, sine fine dicéntes:

COMMUNION Psalms 84: 13

Dóminus dabit benignitátem: et terra nostra dabit fructum suum.

POSTCOMMUNION

Suscipiámus, Dómine, misericórdiam tuam in médio templi tui: ut reparatiónis nostræ ventúra solémnia cóngruis honoribus præcedámus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spíritus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

To Thee have I lifted up my soul: in Thee, O my God, I put my trust, let me not be ashamed: neither let my enemies laugh at me: for none of them that wait on Thee shall be confounded. (Ps.24: 4) Show, O Lord, Thy ways to me: and teach me Thy paths. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. To Thee have I lifted up my soul: in Thee, O my God, I put my trust, let me not be ashamed: neither let my enemies laugh at me: for none of them that wait on Thee shall be confounded.

Stir up Thy power, we beseech Thee, O Lord, and come: that from the threatening dangers of our sins we may deserve to be rescued by Thy protection, and to be saved by Thy deliverance. Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Brethren, knowing that it is now the hour for us to rise from sleep. For now our salvation is nearer than when we believed. The night is past and the day is at hand. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day: not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and impurities, not in contention and envy: but put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ.

All they that wait on Thee shall not be confounded, O Lord. Show, O Lord, Thy ways to me: and teach me Thy paths.

Alleluia, alleluia. Show us, O Lord, Thy mercy: and grant us Thy salvation. Alleluia.

At that time Jesus said to His disciples: There shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, by reason of the confusion of the roaring of the sea and of the waves: men withering away for fear and expectations of what shall come upon the whole world. For the powers of heaven shall be moved. And then they shall see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with great power and majesty. But when these things begin to come to pass, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is at hand. And He spoke to them a similitude: See the fig tree and all the trees: when they now shoot forth their fruit, you know that summer is nigh. So you also, when you shall see these things come to pass, know that the kingdom of God is at hand. Amen, I say to you, this generation shall not pass away till all things be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but My words shall not pass away.

To Thee have I lifted up my soul: in Thee, O my God, I put my trust, let me not be ashamed: neither let my enemies laugh at me: for none of them that wait on Thee shall be confounded.

May these holy mysteries, O Lord, cleanse us by their powerful virtue and make us to come with greater purity to Him Who is their source. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

It is truly meet and just, right and for our salvation, that we should at all times and places give thanks unto Thee, O holy Lord, almighty Father, eternal God, through Christ our Lord; for in Thy mercy and fidelity Thou hast promised Him as Savior to the lost race of men, to instruct the ignorant with His truth, justify the wicked with His holiness, and help the weak by His power. Now that the time draweth nigh that He Whom Thou art to send should come, and the day of our liberation should dawn, with faith in Thy promises, we rejoice with holy exultation. And therefore with the Angels and Archangels, with the Thrones and Dominations, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing a hymn of Thy glory, evermore saying:

The Lord will give goodness: and our earth shall yield her fruit.

May we receive, O Lord, Thy mercy in the midst of Thy temple, that we may prepare with due honor for the redemption. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.