

## First Sunday of Advent – Year A (30.11.2025)

*Is 2:1–5; Rom 13:11–14a; Mt 24:37–44*

*The Time Has Come — Wake Up, Lay Down Your Swords, and Prepare for His Coming...*

### INTRODUCTION

A few years ago, a young man hiking in the Swiss Alps lost his way in a sudden snowstorm. As night fell, he saw a light far off in the valley — the flicker of a lantern carried by a mountain rescuer searching for him. That small light saved his life. Later, he said, *“When I saw that light, I knew I wasn’t forgotten. Someone was coming for me.”*

That’s what Advent is about. It is the light of God breaking into our darkness, reminding us: You are not forgotten.

Someone is coming for you.

Today we begin the holy season of Advent — a time of watching, waiting, and waking up. In a world that often drifts into spiritual slumber, the Lord calls us to rise, to choose His light, and to walk His path of peace.

The readings invite us to beat our swords into ploughshares, to put on the armour of light,

and to be ready for the coming of the Lord —

like Noah, who built his ark in trust.

Let us enter this sacred time with open hearts and a renewed desire to live as people of hope and peace.

### PENITENTIAL ACT (adapted to the readings)

As we begin this holy season of watching and waiting, let us acknowledge where we have fallen asleep in sin and ask the Lord to wake us with His mercy.

*(Pause in silence)*

Lord Jesus, you call us to wake from our slumber:

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you are the Light that dispels the darkness:

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead: **Lord, have mercy.**

### PRAAYER OF ABSOLUTION (adapted to the readings)

May Almighty God,

who awakens us from the sleep of sin

and calls us to walk in the light of His peace,

have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

### **COLLECT (from the Missal)**

Grant your faithful, we pray almighty God,  
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ  
With righteous deed 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. Amen.

### **COLLECT (adapted to the readings for personal meditation)**

O God of compassion and peace,  
you send your saving light into our darkness  
as a beacon that awakens the sleeping,  
gathers the scattered,  
and guides all who are lost to the refuge of your mercy.  
As we enter this holy season of Advent,

stir our hearts from spiritual slumber;  
teach us to walk in your paths,  
to lay down the weapons of pride and anger,  
and to become disciples who forge peace in our homes  
and world.

Make us steadfast in following your Son,  
the true Ark who shelters us from every storm,  
that carrying his healing and his light,  
we may announce the nearness of your 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. Amen.

### **HOMILY – “Wake Up! Forge Peace! Enter the Ark!”**

#### *Opening Story: “The Lighthouse Keeper”*

Several years ago, a young sailor was caught in a sudden storm off the coast. Waves towered above him, and darkness made navigation impossible. Just when hope seemed lost, he saw a faint beam of light — a lighthouse guiding him safely to shore. Later, he said, “*If that light hadn’t been there, I wouldn’t have made it. It reminded me*

*that someone was watching over me.”*

That lighthouse is what Advent represents: God’s light piercing the darkness, calling us to wakefulness, vigilance, and trust.

### ***“Do You Remember?”***

Perhaps some of you still remember — back in the early 1980s, people marched through cities holding signs that read: “*Swords into ploughshares!*” It was the chant of the peace movement, echoing the cry of the prophet Isaiah. A cry for disarmament. A longing for peace.

But what has become of that dream? Missiles were dismantled, yes. But has peace ruled the earth? Not really. War found new soil. Terror, hate, and division took deeper root. So — did Isaiah’s vision fail?

### ***More Than a Slogan — A Promise***

No. Isaiah’s words weren’t idealistic slogans. They were prophetic promises. God Himself will intervene — to arbitrate between nations, settle disputes, and usher in peace not made by human hands but given by God.

That peace begins not in summits or treaties but in hearts transformed by God. And that begins here — in our homes, our communities, our souls.

### ***The Root of War and the Seed of Peace***

We imagine that wars begin in government chambers or on battlefields. But Isaiah sees deeper: wars begin in the human heart — with pride, envy, self-righteousness, and refusal to submit to God’s ways.

*“He will teach us His ways,”* Isaiah says, *“and we will walk in His paths.”*

### ***Short story: “The Boy and the Two Wolves”***

An old Native American grandfather told his grandson: *“There is a fight going on inside me — between two wolves. One is anger, envy, greed, arrogance. The other is peace, joy, compassion, truth.”*

*“Which one will win?”* asked the boy.

*“The one you feed,”* said the grandfather.

Isn’t that what Isaiah is saying? Feed pride and war will grow. Feed humility, truth, and surrender — and peace will flourish.

## ***Wake Up! (Romans 13)***

Paul warns of spiritual sleep: *“It is now the hour to wake from sleep.”* Faith is not something to be half-hearted, convenient, or passive.

### ***Short story: “Under the Blanket”***

A priest recalled how he and his brother slept in the same bed. One morning, they were awake but still under the covers. His brother whispered, *“If Mom doesn’t wake us soon, we’ll be late for school.”*

They were awake but unmoving. Isn’t that how many live the faith? Aware but passive. Advent is the alarm: Get up! Get moving! Put on the armor of light!

### ***Short story: “The Street Musician”***

A man once walked past a street musician, thinking it was mere noise. But as he stopped, he realized the music carried hope, joy, and consolation he desperately needed. God often calls quietly, yet powerfully — are we listening?

### ***Laying Down Swords in Daily Life (Anecdote 1)***

A woman had long been angry at her neighbor who had damaged her garden fence. One Advent morning, she felt

a quiet nudge in prayer: *“Forgive, and lay down the sword.”* She hesitated, then invited the neighbor over for tea. They talked, laughed, and repaired the fence together. That small act of letting go brought peace to her home and heart — a real, lived Advent.

### ***The Oil Lamp at the Door***

In the catacombs of Rome, an inscription reads: *“He was found awake with his lamp still burning.”* The early Christians believed Christ should find us not just believing, but burning — full of active love and vigilance.

### ***Short story: “The Lost Wallet”***

A man found a wallet on the street, full of cash and IDs. He could have kept it — many would. But he returned it to its owner, who had been frantic. That single act of honesty and courage was like a tiny lamp burning in darkness, a small way to walk in God’s paths.

### ***Enter the Ark (Matthew 24)***

Then there’s Noah. Imagine building a massive ark on dry land while everyone laughed and mocked. Some believers even said, *“You’re taking this too literally.”*

### *Short story: “The Village Fire”*

A forest ranger saw a fire creeping toward a village. One home was engulfed, the next untouched. The family inside continued eating, unaware of the danger. The ranger shouted, “Come out! The fire is coming!” They replied, “We’re not in danger yet.”

Ten minutes later, their home was gone.

Advent is that forest ranger at our door — warning us: wake up, leave complacency, and enter the Ark.

Christ Himself is the Ark — the only refuge in life’s storms.

### *Short story: “The First Communion Question”*

A child asked, “Why do my parents speak for me at baptism? Why can’t I answer myself?” Advent calls us to the same personal decision: Have I said yes to Christ? Am I inside the Ark?

### *Laying Down Swords in Daily Life*

A man held a grudge against a colleague for years. One Advent evening, during prayer, he felt a tug: “Forgive, and prepare a place for peace.” The next day, he apologized. Their teamwork improved, tensions dissolved, and both

found unexpected joy. Sometimes “entering the Ark” simply means surrendering old conflicts.

### *Short story: “The Family Table”*

A family had been arguing over inheritance and old disagreements. On Advent Sunday, one of the siblings decided to invite everyone to dinner, leaving past grievances aside. That single gesture turned a house divided into a table of peace and laughter — a living example of Isaiah’s vision: swords into ploughshares.

### *Short story: “The Playground Fight”*

A teacher noticed two children fighting over a swing. Instead of punishing them harshly, she guided them to take turns, apologize, and help each other build a small fort nearby. The children learned that letting go of anger created joy and cooperation — a tiny, practical ark of mercy in their world.

### *A Candle in the Wind*

In Asia, a ranger saw smoke from a forest fire approaching a village. One home was untouched, but the family inside had not noticed the danger. Their indifference put them at

risk.

That is our world. Spiritual danger moves closer each day.

Advent is God's alarm: wake up, step out, and prepare.

### ***Ending Story: "The Lantern on the Dock"***

One evening, a fisherman had drifted too far from shore. He saw a faint lantern on the dock. Running toward it, he realized it wasn't just a light; it was someone waiting for him, calling him home.

This is Advent. God is calling. He lights our hearts so that we may carry His light, awaken, and enter the Ark of His mercy.

### ***Take-Home Invitation***

This Advent, don't just light candles — light a fire:

- Go to Confession.
- Begin prayer again.
- Forgive someone.
- Feed the right wolf.
- Wake up.
- Walk in the light.
- Enter the Ark.

As Paul says: "*Now is the hour to awake from sleep...*

*Put on the Lord Jesus Christ.*" Amen.

### **INVITATION TO THE CREED (adapted to the readings)**

Having heard the call of the prophets and the good news of God's coming among us, let us profess together the faith that keeps us awake in hope, that strengthens us in peace, and that leads us to walk in the light of the Lord.

***I believe in one God, the Father almighty...***

### **INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS (adapted to the readings)**

Awake now to the Lord's coming and renewed in His peace, pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

### **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS (from the Missal)**

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.

### **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS** (*adapted to the readings for personal meditation*)

Accept, O Lord, these gifts of bread and wine,  
signs of our desire to awaken to your call  
and to walk in the light of your Son.

As we place our offerings upon this altar,  
turn our hearts from fear, anger, and complacency;  
teach us to lay down the swords we carry within,  
and make us builders of peace in our homes and  
communities.

Strengthen us to enter the Ark of Christ's mercy  
and send us forth as bearers of his healing,  
guiding others toward the refuge of your Kingdom.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **PREFACE I OF ADVENT (as in the Missal)**

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: *Holy, Holy...*

## PREFACE (adapted to the homily for personal meditation)

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 in this sacred season of Advent  
you rouse your people from spiritual sleep  
and lift before us the light that guides us through the storm,  
calling us to walk no longer in darkness  
but to put on the armour of light.

You set before us the vision of the prophet Isaiah,  
when nations shall seek your ways,  
when weapons of anger will be forged into instruments of  
peace,  
and when hearts once divided will be gathered into your  
house.

In the quiet voice of your Son,  
you teach us again to lay down the swords we carry  
within—

the grudges, fears, and resentments that make wars in our  
homes—

and you invite us to walk in the path of peace  
that begins in the transformed heart.

You remind us, as in the days of Noah,  
to remain awake and prepared,  
to enter the Ark of your mercy which is Christ your Son,  
our refuge in every storm and our guide through every  
darkness.

For in him you come to us still—  
in the neighbor we forgive,  
in the truth we choose,  
in every small act of compassion that keeps the lamp  
burning  
until the day dawns and 夜 no shadow remains.

And so, awaiting the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Savior in glory,  
when truth will shine in fullness  
and peace will embrace the earth,  
we join with Angels and Archangels,

with Thrones and Dominions  
and with all the hosts of heaven,  
to sing the hymn of your glory,  
as without end we acclaim: **Holy, Holy, Holy...**

### **EUCARISHTI PRAYER III (as in the Missal)**

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,  
and all you have created rightly gives you praise,  
for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by the power and working of the Holy Spirit,  
you give life to all things and make them holy,  
and you never cease to gather a people to yourself,  
so that from the rising of the sun to its setting  
a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

*(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day:*

*Awaken us, O Lord, from the sleep of indifference and fear.  
You who taught Isaiah to dream of a world where swords  
become ploughshares,  
teach us too to walk in your paths of peace.*

*As we come before your altar, we lay down our weapons of  
pride and resentment,  
and open our hearts to your transforming Spirit.  
Like Noah entering the Ark, we seek refuge in your mercy.  
Kindle in us the fire of love,  
that our lives may shine as beacons of hope in a world  
darkened by violence).*

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you:  
**by the same Spirit graciously make holy these gifts  
we have brought to you for consecration,  
that they may become the Body and Blood  
of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,  
at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.**

For on the night he was betrayed  
he himself took bread,  
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,  
broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**Take this, all of you, and eat of it,  
for this is my Body, which will be given up for you.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended,

he took the chalice,  
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,  
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

**Take this, all of you, and drink from it,  
for this is the chalice of my Blood,  
the Blood of the new and eternal covenant,  
which will be poured out for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me.**

***The mystery of faith.***

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial  
of the saving Passion of your Son,  
his wondrous Resurrection and Ascension into heaven,  
and as we look forward to his second coming,  
we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice.

*(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day: Lord, we remember your Son who came into our darkness — healing the broken, gathering the scattered, and teaching the ways of peace.*

*We await the day when your promise will be fulfilled, when nations will no longer train for war*

*and your faithful will find refuge in the Ark of your mercy. As we share this memorial, awaken us to your presence; make us watchful and ready, for the hour is near when your light shall dawn without end. May this Eucharist strengthen us to forgive one another, to reconcile with our neighbours, and to become peacemakers in our homes and communities).*

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church  
and, recognizing the sacrificial Victim  
by whose death you willed to reconcile us to yourself,  
grant that we, who are nourished  
by the Body and Blood of your Son  
and filled with his Holy Spirit,  
may become one body, one spirit in Christ.  
May he make of us an eternal offering to you,  
so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect,  
especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of  
God, with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,  
with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs

and with all the Saints, on whose constant intercession in your presence we rely for unfailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation, we pray, O Lord, advance the peace and salvation of all the world.

Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity

your pilgrim Church on earth,

with your servant N. our Pope and N. our Bishop,

the Order of Bishops, all the clergy,

and the entire people you have gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family,

whom you have summoned before you:

in your compassion, O merciful Father, gather to yourself

all your children scattered throughout the world.

To our departed brothers and sisters

and to all who were pleasing to you at their passing from

this life, give kind admittance to your kingdom.

There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory

through Christ our Lord,

through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.

***Through him....***

### **INVITATION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER** (adapted to the readings)

As we wait in hope for the coming of the Lord,  
let us pray with longing in our hearts  
as Jesus Himself taught us:

### **EMBOLISM** (adapted to the readings)

Deliver us, Lord, we pray,  
from the slumber of complacency,  
graciously kindle in our hearts the fire of Your light;  
that, by the power of Your Spirit,  
we may awaken to Your call,  
forge peace in our homes and in our world,  
and find refuge safe within the ark of Your mercy,  
as we prepare with watchful hearts  
for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

### **PRAYER FOR PEACE** (adapted to the readings)

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your Apostles:

*“Peace I leave you, my peace I give you.”*

Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and unity

in accordance with your will —  
peace that mends what is torn, restores what is barren,  
and transforms our world into your Kingdom.  
You live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION** (adapted to the readings)

Behold the Lamb of God,  
the Light who awakens those who sleep,  
the Prince of Peace who turns swords into ploughshares,  
the Shepherd who calls us into the Ark of His mercy.  
Behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

#### **MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION** (adapted to the readings)

“Lord Jesus, You are the true Ark in the storm,  
the Light in the darkness,  
the Morning Star that wakes us up from sleep.  
I give you the dullness of my routine,  
the fears I carry, the things that make me spiritually  
drowsy.

In this Holy Communion, you enter my life again.  
Help me to stand up, to walk in your light,  
and to make space in my heart —  
not just for the idea of peace,  
but for your living presence.  
Come, Lord Jesus.” Amen.

#### **PRAAYER AFTER COMMUNION** (as in the Missal)

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. Amen.

#### **PRAAYER AFTER COMMUNION** (adapted to the readings for personal meditation)

God of consolation and light,  
you have nourished us with this holy food  
and strengthened us with the Bread that awakens our  
hearts.

May this sacrament stir us from spiritual sleep,

renew in us the courage to lay down the swords we carry within, and deepen our longing to walk in the path of your peace. As you have gathered us into the Ark of Christ's mercy, send us forth now as his disciples—to forgive where there is division, to comfort where there is sorrow, to rebuild where hope has grown thin, and to carry your healing into every corner of our world.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **DISMISSAL** (adapted to the readings)

Go in peace, awake in Christ, walking in His light.

#### **TAKE-HOME THOUGHT** (adapted to the readings)

*"This Advent, don't just light a candle — light a fire. Wake up. Lay down your sword. Step into the Ark. The Lord is coming."*

#### **FINAL BLESSING** (adapted to the readings)

May the Lord bless you and keep you awake in hope.  
Amen.

May He turn your swords into ploughshares and your burdens into peace. Amen.

May you walk in the light of the Lord and be ready to enter His ark when He comes. Amen.

**And may almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son  and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## Monday of the First Week of Advent

*Is 2:1–5 or Is 4:2–6; Mt 8:5–11*

*“Walking in the Light of His Word”*

### INTRODUCTION

A young boy once accompanied his father on a long walk through a forest at dusk. As the shadows deepened, he began to tremble. “Dad,” he whispered, “I can’t see where we’re going.”

His father smiled and said, “You don’t need to see the whole path—just walk where my light shines.” The boy noticed the small torch in his father’s hand illuminating only a few steps ahead. “If you stay close,” his father said, “you’ll never be lost.”

We begin a new Church year today—a fresh start, a new journey with God. Advent is not merely a countdown to Christmas; it is a sacred season of hope, of waiting, and of inner awakening. God calls us, like that child, to walk step by step in the light of His Word, even when the way ahead is uncertain.

In today’s Gospel, we meet a Roman centurion whose faith astonished even Jesus. His humble plea—“Only say the

*word...*”— reminds us that faith is not about religion or rank, but about trust in the One whose word heals, renews, and saves.

As we light the first candle of Advent in our hearts, let us prepare a space for the One who comes with healing in His word and peace for our weary world.

### PENITENTIAL ACT (adapted to the readings)

Let us prepare to welcome Christ by recognizing where we’ve strayed from His path.

**Lord Jesus**, you invite all nations to your mountain of peace. *Lord, have mercy.*

**Christ Jesus**, you marvel at the faith of those who trust in your word. *Christ, have mercy.*

**Lord Jesus**, you heal what is broken, even before we feel worthy. *Lord, have mercy.*

### PRAAYER OF ABSOLUTION (adapted to the readings)

May Almighty God,  
who marvels at our faith even when we feel unworthy,  
have mercy on us, speak His healing word into our hearts,

forgive us our sins,  
and lead us into the light of His everlasting life. Amen.

### **COLLECT (from the Missal)**

Keep us alert, we pray, O Lord our God,  
as we await the advent of Christ your Son,  
so that, when he comes and knocks,  
he may find us watchful in prayer  
and exultant in his praise.  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **COLLECT (adapted to the readings for personal meditation)**

God of all peoples and nations,  
you sent your Son to gather us from east and west  
into the one banquet of your Kingdom.  
Stir up in us a living faith—like that of the centurion—  
that trusts in your Word and walks in your light.  
Prepare our hearts this Advent,  
that your peace may take root in us  
and blossom anew in our world.

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. Amen.

### **HOMILY: "Only Say the Word - Faith That Astonishes Jesus"**

A missionary once told of visiting a small mountain village where people had little access to medical care. One night, a child fell gravely ill. The missionary prayed, but there was no medicine and no doctor nearby. The child's father, a farmer, knelt beside him and whispered, "*Pastor, don't worry—God has already spoken His word over my son.*" By morning, the child had recovered. The missionary later said, "*That night I realized: I was the pastor, but he was the man of faith.*"

In today's Gospel, Jesus meets someone extraordinary—not a disciple, not a rabbi, but a Roman soldier. A man of authority, a foreigner, a non-believer by Israel's standards. Yet Jesus is astonished—not by his power, but by his faith. "*Lord, I am not worthy to have you under my roof. But only say the word...*"

This statement echoes through every Mass. We repeat it before Communion, but have we truly stopped to ponder its meaning? It is a confession of humility and a proclamation of trust—faith in the sheer power of Christ's word.

Isaiah gives us a vision too: a mountain where all nations come to walk in God's light. Enemies turn their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. A world once divided is united by peace.

The centurion's faith is a glimpse of that prophecy fulfilled—a Roman, part of the occupying army, seeking not conquest but healing. His faith transcends borders and belief systems. And Jesus responds without hesitation: *“Let it be done for you according to your faith.”*

Advent is precisely this invitation—to walk not by sight, but by faith. Not by the flickering lights of consumerism, but by the steady flame of trust. God's Word, spoken in Scripture and whispered in prayer, has power to heal what we cannot fix and to guide where we cannot see.

### Reflection:

Real faith doesn't wait for perfect conditions—it grows in darkness, like a candle in the night.

### Challenge for the Day:

When you face uncertainty today, whisper the centurion's prayer: *“Lord, I am not worthy... but only say the word.”* Let that become your Advent breath—a rhythm of humility and trust.

Let me end with a story. A traveller once asked a guide in the desert, *“How do you know the way when there are no roads?”* The guide smiled and said, “We never lose our way. The stars above are our map, and the Word within us is our compass.”

That is Advent—learning again to read the stars of faith and follow the Word that leads us home.

So as we begin this holy season, let us walk in that light—step by step, word by word—trusting that Christ, who once marvelled at a soldier's faith, may find in us a faith that still astonishes Him.

## INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we bring our gifts to the altar, let us offer more than bread and wine—let us place before the Lord our faith and trust, that His word may heal, renew, and guide us in this Advent journey and may they be acceptable to God the Father almighty.

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS (from the Missal)

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.

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS (adapted to the readings for personal meditation)

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we bring these gifts before you— bread and wine, symbols of our hope and trust. As the centurion offered nothing but faith, so we offer our humble lives, our longing hearts, trusting that your word alone is enough to heal and renew.

Receive these offerings, Lord, and make of them a sign of the banquet that gathers all peoples in peace. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### PREFACE: The Two Comings of Christ (adapted to the readings for personal meditation)

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, so as to fulfil the ancient promise and bring salvation not just to Israel, but to all who believe in His word.

In this season of waiting and hopeful expectation, we are reminded of the Roman centurion, whose bold trust became a model of faith for all nations.

Now we watch for the day when He will come again in glory and majesty, and all who have placed their trust in Him will rise to the joy of the eternal banquet.

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:  
**Holy, Holy, Holy...**

## **EUCARISTIC PRAYER II (as in the Missal)**

You are indeed Holy,  
O Lord, the fount of all holiness.

*(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day: Reflection before the Epiclesis:*

*Lord our God, in this holy Advent season,  
we come before you like the centurion of the Gospel—  
not demanding signs, but trusting in your word.*

*You call us to walk in your light, step by step,  
believing that your word alone has power to heal, renew,  
and save.*

*As we prepare to celebrate this mystery of faith,  
we ask you to make us worthy to stand before you,  
humbled yet confident in your mercy).*

**Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,  
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the  
dewfall, so that they may become for us  
the Body and + Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

At the time he was betrayed  
and entered willingly into his Passion,  
he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended,  
he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks,  
he gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR  
MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.**

**DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.**

## **The mystery of faith...**

Therefore, as we celebrate  
the memorial of his Death and Resurrection,  
we offer you, Lord,  
the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation,  
giving thanks that you have held us worthy  
to be in your presence and minister to you.

*(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day: As we proclaim the mystery of your saving love, we remember the centurion whose faith amazed even your Son.*

*He believed your word was enough—  
and so do we, Lord.*

*We stand before this altar not because we are worthy,  
but because you have spoken life into our unworthiness.  
Let this holy sacrifice deepen our trust,  
that walking in the light of your Word,  
we may become living witnesses of your peace and  
healing in our world).*

Humbly we pray

that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,  
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.  
Remember, Lord, your Church,  
spread throughout the world,  
and bring her to the fullness of charity,  
together with N. our Pope and N. our Bishop,  
the clergy and all who serve your people.  
Remember also our brothers and sisters  
who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection,  
and all who have died in your mercy:  
welcome them into the light of your face.  
Have mercy on us all, we pray,  
that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,  
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,  
with the blessed Apostles,  
and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the  
ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life,  
and may praise and glorify you  
through your Son, Jesus Christ.  
**Through him, and with him, and in him... Amen.**

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER (adapted to the readings)

As we await the full coming of God's Kingdom,  
we turn with confidence to the One  
who speaks the healing word.

United in trust, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

## EMBOLISM (adapted to the readings)

Deliver us Lord from doubt and fear,  
and kindle in our hearts a faith that astonishes.

Graciously grant us the courage to trust,  
that even when we feel unworthy,  
we may boldly say:

*“Only say the word, and I shall be healed.”*

By your mercy, keep us steadfast in hope,  
walking always in your light,  
free from the shadows of pride and unbelief,  
as we prepare to welcome you this Advent,  
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## PRAAYER FOR PEACE (adapted to the readings)

Lord Jesus Christ, you came into a divided world to make all things one. You marvelled at the faith of a foreigner and gathered many from east and west into your Kingdom. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us peace—peace that disarms fear, peace that heals wounds, peace that allows even strangers to sit at one table with joy. You who live and reign for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION (adapted to the readings)

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold Him who comes with healing in His word,  
who gathers the faithful from east and west  
to the banquet of His Kingdom.

Blessed are we who are called—  
like the centurion—to trust in Him,  
and to receive the One who says:

*“Go, let it be done for you according to your faith.”*

*Lord, I am not worthy...*

## **MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION** (adapted to the readings)

*“Lord, I am not worthy...”* Today, we have spoken these words again—words of humility, words of trust.

And the Lord has come—into our midst, into our hands, into our hearts.

Like the centurion, we did not need to see the healing to believe in it. We trusted, and He came.

Let us rest now in this sacred moment, letting His peace settle into the dry corners of our lives. Even a withered branch can bloom again when the Lord says the word.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (as in the Missal)**

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. Amen.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** (adapted to the readings for personal meditation)

Lord our God, you have fed us with the Bread of Life, spoken your healing word into our hearts, and renewed our longing for your Kingdom.

As we go forth into this Advent journey, strengthen in us a faith like the centurion’s—humble, bold, and trusting in your word above all things. May the grace we have received bear fruit in works of peace, welcome, and witness. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **FINAL BLESSING**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that your faith may shine like a light in the darkness of this world. *Amen.*

May Christ, whose word heals and restores, speak peace into your heart and make you ready for His coming. *Amen.*

And may the Holy Spirit strengthen you to walk in the Lord’s light each day of this Advent season. *Amen.*

**And may Almighty God bless you,  
the Father  and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**DISMISSAL (adapted to the readings)**

Go in peace to prepare the way of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**Or**

Go in the peace of Christ—

a peace that comes not from having all the answers,  
but from trusting in the One who speaks life and healing.

Walk in His light this Advent,

and let your faith be a sign of hope to the world.

**TAKE-HOME THOUGHT (adapted to the readings)**

Take this with you today:

Faith is not about having it all figured out.

It is about trusting the One who speaks life into our mess.

Let His Word heal you—and let your life become His  
invitation to others.

## Tuesday of the First Week of Advent

*Is 11:1–10; Lk 10:21–24*

*"Eyes Open to Wonder: Advent through a Child's Heart"*

### INTRODUCTION

A little boy once received a simple kaleidoscope for Christmas. He held it to his eye and gasped with delight at the shifting colors and patterns. His father smiled and asked, *"What do you see?"* The boy whispered, *"I see light dancing."* Most adults would have seen only colored glass—but the child saw wonder.

In today's Gospel, Jesus praises such childlike eyes: *"Happy the eyes that see what you see."*

Today, we are invited to recover that same gift of sight—the grace to recognize God's presence in Jesus, not with the eyes of the learned, but with the heart of a child.

Isaiah speaks of a shoot from the stump of Jesse, filled with the Spirit of the Lord. In Jesus, this prophecy is fulfilled—and even more: He not only reveals the Father, but draws us into His own relationship with the Father.

This mystery is not grasped by intellect or power. It is

revealed to the humble, the trusting, the childlike.

So, as we begin this Eucharist, let us come before the Lord with grateful hearts and eyes open to wonder, ready to receive the hidden joys He longs to show us this Advent.

### PENITENTIAL ACT (adapted to the readings)

Brothers and sisters, let us prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries by acknowledging our need for God's mercy and light. We have often closed our eyes to His presence and hardened our hearts to His invitation.

*(Pause for silent reflection)*

Lord Jesus, you reveal the Father to those who are humble of heart: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you invite us to share in your intimate love with the Father: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you bless the eyes that see and the hearts that believe: Lord, have mercy.

## PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION (adapted to the readings)

May Almighty God, who reveals His mercy to the humble and opens the eyes of those who trust in Him, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us—like children—into the joy of everlasting life. Amen.

## COLLECT (from the Missal)

Look with favour, Lord God, on our petitions, and in our trials grant us your compassionate help, that, consoled by the presence of your Son, whose coming we now await, we may be tainted no longer by the corruption of former ways. 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. Amen.

## COLLECT (adapted to the readings for personal meditation)

Lord God,  
you reveal yourself not to the proud or self-assured, but to those who come with open hands and childlike hearts.  
Pour out your Spirit upon us in this Advent season. Give us eyes to see your hidden glory and hearts to receive the mystery of your love in Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## HOMILY – “Happy the Eyes That See What You See”

### “The Child and the Painter”

A famous painter once displayed his new artwork at a museum. It was a vivid landscape, full of light and shadow. Many critics came, analysed the technique, and debated its meaning. In the midst of them stood a small boy, silent, gazing intently.

The painter approached and asked, “*What do you see?*”

The boy replied, “*I see where the sun is hiding behind the*

*clouds.”*

The artist smiled. “*You saw what I hoped someone would see.*” Sometimes it takes the eyes of a child to notice what everyone else misses.

Jesus says in today’s Gospel: “*Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.*” In other words: You are deeply privileged—far more than you realize.

#### **A Modern Parable – *The Locked Treasure Chest***

A man inherited a dusty old house from his grandfather. Ready to sell it, he found a locked chest in the attic and almost threw it away.

But curiosity made him pause.

Inside were gold coins, letters, and a family journal—riches of both material and memory.

He had been sitting on a treasure and nearly missed it... simply because he wasn’t looking.

This is what Jesus tells His disciples:

“*You’re seeing what kings and prophets only dreamed of.*”

The treasure is right here:

Jesus Himself— His relationship with the Father,

and the Spirit poured into our hearts. Not earned. Not discovered by cleverness. Just received—like a child opening a gift.

#### **Jesus Rejoices in the Childlike**

Today’s Gospel offers one of the rare moments where Jesus rejoices aloud in prayer. Why? Because the deep things of God aren’t revealed to the clever and proud—but to the childlike, to the openhearted.

This turns our world’s logic upside down.

In the world, power belongs to the rich and wisdom to scholars. But in God’s Kingdom, it’s the humble who are shown the face of God.

#### **The Shoot from Jesse**

Isaiah speaks of a stump—something lifeless. But from it, a shoot springs forth: a child, born in Bethlehem, on whom the Spirit rests.

God always works this way:

In a manger, not a palace.

In a whisper, not a trumpet.

In the lowly heart, not the proud one.

## A Lesson from a Child

A priest once asked a First Communion class, “*What happens when you receive Jesus in the Eucharist?*”

A little girl answered, “*Jesus smiles at me from the inside.*” No theologian could say it better.

She didn’t explain it. She received it—with joy.

That’s what Jesus blesses—eyes that see, hearts that trust.

## The Danger of Cleverness

It’s possible to know a lot *about* God but still not *know* God.

That was the trap of the religious leaders: full of knowledge, but blind to Jesus.

Knowledge becomes dangerous when it builds a wall instead of opening a door.

## This Advent: Open Your Eyes

What does this mean for us?

It means you are blessed.

You have seen Jesus—in the Gospels, in the Eucharist, in quiet moments of grace.

But have you noticed?

Or are you overlooking the treasure?

## Let’s Be Children Again

This Advent, Jesus invites us back into childlike trust.

Let us see what prophets longed to see.

Let us receive the gift—freely, joyfully.

Because Jesus still rejoices in the Spirit, still reveals the Father to hearts that are open.

If we listen closely, He still whispers: “*Happy the eyes that see what you see.*”

## “The Elderly Woman and the Morning Light”

An elderly woman once told her granddaughter,

“*Every morning when I open my curtains, I say,*

‘*Thank You, Lord, for letting me see Your world again.*’

*Even if my eyes grow dim, I still see His light.*”

The girl asked,

“*Grandma, what if one day you can’t see it anymore?*”

The woman smiled, “*Then I’ll finally see Him face to face.*”

That’s what Jesus offers us this Advent—

eyes open to wonder, hearts open to faith,

and a vision that sees God even in the smallest light.

## INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

As we prepare these humble gifts upon the altar,  
let us open our hearts like children before the Father,  
trusting that through this offering,  
He will reveal to us the hidden wonder of His love.  
Let us now pray that our sacrifice be acceptable to the God  
the Father almighty.

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS (from the Missal)

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.

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS (adapted to the readings)

Lord, receive these humble gifts  
as signs of our gratitude and trust.  
As the prophets longed to see your face,  
and kings yearned to hear your voice,  
may we too be awakened to the mystery of your presence

among us. Sanctify this offering, and with it our hearts  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PREFACE (CHILDLIKE FAITH AND REVELATION)

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.  
You sent your Son not to the proud but to the poor in spirit;  
not to the wise of this world but to those who become like  
children.  
Through Him, you revealed the mystery hidden for ages—  
your love made flesh, your kingdom near.  
As He rejoiced in the Holy Spirit, He praised you for  
revealing your will to the lowly.  
Now, in this season of watching and waiting,  
you awaken our eyes to see and our hearts to believe.  
And so, with angels and archangels,  
and all who long for your coming,  
we proclaim your glory, as we sing (say): **Holy, Holy, Holy**

## EUCARISTIC PRAYER II (from the Missal)

You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness.

*(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day: As we come before you in this holy mystery, O Father, open our eyes with the wonder of a child, that we may see your presence hidden in simple gifts of bread and wine.*

*As Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and praised you for revealing your truth to the humble, so we, your children, come in trust and gratitude—ready to receive what prophets longed to see and kings desired to hear).*

**Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and + Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his Passion, he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT, FOR THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT, FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD, THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT, WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS. DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.**

*The mystery of faith.*

Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection, we offer you, Lord, the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation, giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you.

(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day:

*Lord, as we remember the death and resurrection of your Son, open our eyes anew to the hidden wonders of your love. Let this holy remembrance awaken in us the joy of those whose eyes have seen your salvation.*

*May we never grow blind to your daily miracles, but see with childlike hearts the mystery unfolding in our midst— the same Jesus, present here in the breaking of the bread).*

**Humbly we pray** that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

**Remember, Lord**, your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with N. our Pope and N. our Bishop, the clergy and all who serve your people.

**Remember also** our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy: welcome them into the light of your face.

**Have mercy on us all, we pray,**

that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her Spouse, with the blessed Apostles, and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life, and may praise and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ.

**Through him, and with him, and in him... Amen**

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER** (adapted to the readings)

With trust as children of the same Father, and gratitude for the gift of faith, let us pray in the words Jesus gave us:

**EMBOLISM** (adapted to the readings)

Reveal yourself to us, Lord, we pray, in quiet wonder and childlike trust.

Graciously keep our hearts open in these days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may treasure what we have seen,

and never lose the joy of your presence,  
as we await with grateful hope  
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

### **PRAYER FOR PEACE** (adapted to the readings)

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you rejoiced in the Holy Spirit  
and blessed the eyes that could see and the hearts that  
were open.

Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church.  
Grant us the peace that surpasses understanding—  
a peace born not of strength but of surrender,  
not of cleverness but of childlike trust.

You who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION** (adapted to the readings)

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold Him who opens the eyes of the humble  
and reveals to children the mystery of God's love.  
Behold Him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are we—blessed the eyes that see what we see—  
for we are called to the supper of the Lamb.

### **MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION** (adapted to the readings)

*"Blessed are the eyes that see what you see..."*

Lord Jesus,  
You have given us not just a meal but a glimpse—  
into your very life with the Father.  
You have nourished us with mystery.  
Now give us the Spirit of wisdom and insight,  
that we may see beyond the surface,  
believe beyond understanding,  
and trust beyond certainty. Make us like children again—  
eager to receive, willing to be led, and joyful in your  
presence.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** (as in the Missal)

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. Amen.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** (adapted to the readings)

O God of revelation and joy,  
you have fed us with heavenly food and opened our hearts  
to your living Word.  
As we journey through this Advent season,  
keep us childlike in faith, watchful in spirit,  
and joyful in hope,  
that we may recognize your coming in the quiet and the  
hidden. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **FINAL BLESSING** (adapted to the readings)

May the God who reveals Himself to the little ones bless  
you with childlike trust. Amen.

May the Lord Jesus open your eyes to see what prophets  
longed to see. Amen.

May the Spirit fill you with wisdom, joy, and peace. Amen.  
And may Almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son  and the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.

## **DISMISSAL** (adapted to the readings)

**Go in the peace of Christ,**  
with hearts made childlike, eyes opened to wonder,  
and lives ready to welcome the quiet coming of God.

## **TAKE-HOME THOUGHT** (adapted to the readings)

Jesus praised the Father for revealing great things to mere  
children. This Advent, be that child.

Let go of the need to control or understand everything.  
Open your heart to wonder.

Give thanks for the faith you've been given.  
Watch. Listen. Rejoice.

You are already seeing what prophets longed to see.

## Wednesday of the First Week of Advent

*Is 25:6–10a; Mt 15:29–37*

*“The Feast of God’s Compassion”*

### INTRODUCTION

During a flood in a small town, a woman opened her home to stranded travellers. She had little left—just a pot of soup and some bread—but as more people arrived, she kept sharing. By evening, her tiny kitchen had become a banquet of warmth and laughter. One man said, “It felt like God Himself was feeding us.”

That simple scene captures today’s message. Advent calls us to hope in a God who prepares a feast of joy and peace, who wipes away every tear and destroys death for ever. Isaiah speaks of a banquet on God’s mountain; the Gospel shows it fulfilled in Jesus—healing the sick and feeding the hungry.

Today, we are invited to that same feast of compassion. Let us come hungry for healing, open to His abundance, and ready to share His love.

### PENITENTIAL ACT (adapted to the readings)

Let us now acknowledge the ways we have closed ourselves off from God’s generous love.

Lord Jesus, you came to heal the broken-hearted and feed the hungry: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you call us to offer what we have, trusting in your abundance: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you invite us to the table of your mercy and joy: Lord, have mercy.

**May Almighty God**, who prepares a feast for the broken-hearted, have mercy on us, heal our wounds, forgive us our sins, and lead us to the joy of His everlasting life. *Amen.*

### COLLECT (from the Missal)

Prepare our hearts, we pray, O Lord our God,  
By your divine power,  
so that at the coming of Christ your son  
we may be found worthy of the banquet of eternal life  
and merit to receive heavenly nourishment from his hands.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **COLLECT (adapted to the readings)**

O God of abundance and compassion, You prepare for us a feast beyond all measure, and invite us to share in the bread of eternal life. Stir up in us a spirit of joyful expectation, that we may welcome your Son with open hearts and find our place at His table. 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.

Amen.

### **HOMILY – “A Feast for the Broken”**

A young man named Daniel volunteered at a soup kitchen every Wednesday. One cold night, a homeless man arrived late, after the food had run out. Daniel saw only one bowl of soup left—and handed it to him. The man, trembling, whispered, “You’ve no idea how long I’ve waited for someone to see me.”

That moment reflects the heart of today’s readings—a God who sees the hungry, notices the forgotten, and prepares

for them a feast of compassion.

Isaiah describes that feast on God’s holy mountain—rich food, fine wine, every tear wiped away, and death destroyed for ever. It’s not just a vision of heaven; it’s a promise of healing and joy already unfolding through Christ.

In the Gospel, that promise takes flesh. Jesus climbs the mountain, and people bring their pain—the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute. He heals them all. Then, seeing their weariness, He says, *“I do not want to send them away hungry.”* With seven loaves and a few fish, He feeds thousands.

That is the feast of God’s compassion—love that multiplies the little we offer. We experience that same miracle at every Eucharist. We bring our small loaves—our wounds, our worries, our hunger—and Jesus turns them into grace. A missionary sister once told how children in a poor village waited each week for her visit with food and prayer. When she arrived late one day, a child said, “When you come, it feels like Jesus hasn’t forgotten us.”

That is the Gospel today. Jesus has not forgotten us. He still sees our hunger, still climbs the mountain of our pain, still feeds us with His love.

So bring your little loaves—your needs, your faith, your love. In His hands, they will be more than enough. The feast of God's compassion never runs out.

### **INVITATION TO PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

As we prepare the gifts of bread and wine, let us bring also our hearts and our hopes to the Lord, trusting that He will multiply our little offerings into a feast of compassion and grace. Pray, that our offerings may be acceptable to God the Father almighty.

### **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS (from the Missal)**

May the sacrifice of our worship Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly, to complete what was begun in sacred mystery and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work. Through Christ our Lord.

### **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS (adapted to the readings)**

God of abundance, you feed us with your Word and nourish us with your Spirit. Accept these gifts we bring: bread and wine, our lives, our love, and our service, the little we have and the much we need. As you once multiplied loaves in the wilderness, may this Eucharist become a feast of healing and hope for all who hunger for your presence. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **PREFACE (God's Coming in Abundance)**

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.

You prepare a feast for all peoples on your holy mountain, a banquet rich with the finest food and wine, where tears are wiped away and death is no more. In your Son, Jesus Christ, you come to heal the broken-hearted and feed the hungry, multiplying the humble gifts of bread and fish to satisfy all.

As we await his coming in glory,  
we join with angels and saints in their unending hymn:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts...**

### **EUCARISTIC PRAYER (as in the Missal)**

#### *Advent – “The Feast of God’s Compassion”*

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,  
the fount of all holiness.

*(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day:*

*As we gather at your table this Advent morning, O God of compassion, we remember your promise:  
on your holy mountain you prepare a feast for all peoples — a banquet where the hungry are filled, the broken are healed,  
and tears are wiped away.*

*You sent your Son to climb our human mountain of pain and turn scarcity into abundance, sadness into joy.  
Here at this altar, that promise is fulfilled anew).*

**Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,  
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and + Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

At the time he was betrayed and entered willingly into his Passion, he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks, he gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.  
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.**

## ***The mystery of faith...***

*(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day:*

*As we proclaim the mystery of faith, O Lord,  
we remember that you feed your people not only with  
bread and wine*

*but with mercy multiplied.*

*You heal the lame, the blind, and the weary;  
you do not send us away hungry.*

*Here we bring you our few loaves — our small acts of love,  
our daily struggles —  
and you make of them a feast of grace for the world).*

Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection, we offer you, Lord, the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation, giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you.

Humbly we pray  
that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,  
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with N. our Pope and N. our Bishop, all the clergy and all who serve your people in faith and truth.

Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy: welcome them into the light of your face.

Have mercy on us all, we pray, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her Spouse, with the blessed Apostles, and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life, and may praise and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, and with him, and in him...  
Amen.

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER

As those invited to the mountain of the Lord,  
who trust in the feast He prepares for His people,  
let us pray with joy and confidence as Jesus taught us:

## EMBOLISM (adapted to the readings)

Deliver us, Lord, we pray,  
from every loneliness and loss,  
graciously grant healing and peace in our days,  
that, sustained by your mercy,  
we may be fed in our hunger, comforted in our grief,  
and restored in our brokenness,  
as we await the joyful banquet  
and the glorious coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

## PRAYER FOR PEACE (adapted to the readings)

Lord Jesus Christ, you came to heal the broken-hearted  
and bring peace to a troubled world.

Fill us with your peace and love,  
that we may be one body, one heart, one spirit,  
sharing your life abundantly with all.

Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church,  
and grant us the peace that comes from trusting in your  
providence. Where there is hunger, bring hope.  
Where there is division, sow reconciliation.  
And where there is fear, pour out your peace.  
You live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION (adapted to the readings)

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold Him who feeds the hungry and heals the broken-  
hearted,  
who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the feast of the Lamb—  
the banquet where every tear is wiped away,  
and love is multiplied beyond measure.

## MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION (adapted to the readings)

We have eaten  
not just bread and wine,  
but the very life of Christ.

What we have received  
was not earned, but offered—  
a gift beyond measure.

Let us leave this table not full of ourselves  
but filled with compassion.

Let us become what we have received:  
bread for the world,  
hope for the hurting,  
light for those still walking in the dark.

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (from the Missal)**

We implore your mercy, Lord,  
that this divine sustenance  
may cleanse us of our faults  
and prepare us for the coming feasts.  
Through Christ our Lord.

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (adapted to the readings)**

God of compassion and mercy,  
you have fed us with the Bread of Heaven  
and given us a glimpse of the banquet to come.  
Strengthen us in our waiting,

fill us with your joy,  
and make us ready to serve others  
with the same love we have received.  
Help us to live in joyful hope,  
sharing your abundant love with all those in need,  
until we feast with you for  
ever in your kingdom.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **FINAL BLESSING (adapted to the readings)**

May the Lord bless you and keep you.  
May His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
May He fill your heart with hope and your life with joy,  
as you prepare to welcome Him this Advent.  
And may almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son  and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### **DISMISSAL (adapted to the readings)**

**Go in the peace of Christ—**  
you who have tasted His healing and shared in His feast.  
Let your life now become bread for the hungry,

joy for the sorrowful, and light for those still walking in darkness.

Go forth, bringing the abundance of Christ to a world in need.

#### **TAKE-HOME THOUGHT** (adapted to the readings)

The feast of God is already being set before us—  
in simple acts of kindness,  
in little offerings made in love,  
in the small loaves we give Him each day.

Let God multiply your offering.

Let love overflow.

Because when each of us gives what we have—  
there will be more than enough.

## Thursday of the First Week of Advent –

### Monthly Prayer Day for Vocations:

*Is 26:1–6; Mt 7:21, 24–27*

*Building on Christ the Rock, Advent readiness, and praying for vocations:*

### INTRODUCTION

When the great cathedral of Chartres was being rebuilt after a fire, a visitor noticed three stonecutters at work. He asked each what he was doing. “I’m cutting stone,” said the first. “I’m earning a living,” said the second. But the third smiled and said, “I’m building a cathedral for God.” That third man saw beyond the daily task—he was building on a vision. Advent invites us to see beyond the ordinary days of December. It calls us to look deeper than lights, calendars, and candles—to the eternal building God is shaping in our hearts. Each prayer, each act of faith, is a stone laid on the firm foundation of Christ.

As we mark this day of prayer for vocations, we remember those who dedicate their lives to building the Church—priests, deacons, and consecrated men and women whose “yes” gives form and strength to God’s house on earth. Let

us enter this Eucharist ready to strengthen our foundations in Christ, the Rock who never fails.

### PENITENTIAL ACT (adapted to the readings)

Lord Jesus, You are the Rock on which we are called to build. Yet we confess that too often we build on shifting sands—on fear, ambition, and distraction.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, You call us to hear Your word and act upon it, yet we often listen but fail to follow. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, You offer refuge and peace, yet we seek security in comfort and compromise. Lord, have mercy.

### PRAAYER OF ABSOLUTION (adapted to the readings)

May Almighty God, our everlasting Rock, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and strengthen us to build wisely on His Word.

By His grace and calling may he bring us everlasting life. Amen.

## COLLECT (from the Missal)

Stir up your power, O Lord,  
and come to our help with mighty strength,  
that what sins impede  
the grace of your mercy may hasten.

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. Amen.

## COLLECT (adapted to the day based on the readings)

O God, our eternal refuge and unshakable Rock,  
grant that, trusting in Your strength, we may build our lives  
on Christ, Your Living Word. Raise up faithful vocations  
within Your Church—priests, deacons, and religious who  
stand firm in faith and guide others in truth.

May we be ready to welcome Your Son at His coming,  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## HOMILY – “Building on the Rock: A Lesson from the Storm”

Years ago, a small coastal village faced a fierce cyclone. Many homes were destroyed—but one stood untouched. When asked why, the owner replied, “My father taught me to dig deeper for the foundation. It took longer, but I built on the rock.” That story mirrors today’s Gospel. Jesus says the wise person is the one who hears His word and builds upon it.

Faith is not decoration—it’s foundation. Advent reminds us that the house of our life will be tested by storms: sorrow, loss, temptation, doubt. Appearances may hold for a while, but only what is built on Christ endures.

I once heard of a builder who rushed through a project to save time. The house looked splendid—until the first rains came. It cracked and collapsed. The same happens spiritually when we admire beauty but neglect depth. Isaiah tells us: *“Trust in the Lord for ever, for the Lord is an everlasting rock.”* Christ is not an idea or a moral code—He is a living, faithful Person, steady beneath every wave.

Advent is the time to check our spiritual foundations. Do we build on God's Word, or on convenience and self-reliance? Each prayer, each act of obedience, each quiet "yes" strengthens our footing on Christ.

Today, as we pray for vocations, we remember those who take that "yes" to heart—priests, sisters, brothers, deacons—who give their whole lives to stand upon and proclaim the Rock. Their witness reminds us that discipleship is not about comfort, but about construction—building something lasting for God.

So how do we build on the Rock?

- By listening daily to God's Word and living it.
- By encouraging and praying for those discerning a vocation.
- By letting Christ be the foundation of every decision, even when it costs us.

And perhaps, when we see the next storm of life approach, we'll find that we do not crumble—because beneath our feet is not shifting sand, but the solid love of Christ.

A priest once said, "Storms don't test the house—they reveal what it's built on." May this Advent reveal that our lives, our vocations, and our Church stand firm on the Rock who never fails—Jesus Christ.

### **INVITATION TO PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS** **(adapted to the readings)**

As we prepare these gifts upon the altar,  
let us offer not only bread and wine,  
but our desire to build our lives and vocations on Christ,  
the Rock who never fails.

May this sacrifice be acceptable to God the Father  
almighty.

### **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS (from the Missal)**

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 the prize of eternal redemption.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## PRAAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS (adapted to the readings)

Lord, our Rock and our Redeemer,  
we bring You these gifts—symbols of our trust and hope.  
May this offering strengthen Your Church,  
and support those You call to serve You as priests and religious. Build us up in faith, that we may stand firm in love and in readiness for the coming of Christ.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## PREFACE (adapted to the readings for personal meditation)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give You thanks, Lord, holy Father,  
for You are the everlasting Rock on which we stand. Through Jesus Christ, Your Word made flesh,  
You have given us a firm foundation—  
calling us to wisdom, to watchfulness, and to faith. As we prepare to welcome Him in joy,  
we pray for those You call to serve—

that they may be steadfast and generous in their vocation. With all the angels and saints, we raise our voice in praise, saying: Holy, holy, holy...

## EUCARISTIC PRAYER (as in the Missal)

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,  
the fount of all holiness.

*(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day:*

*As we come before You this Advent morning, Lord, You remind us through Your Word that the wise builder is the one who hears and acts upon Your voice. May this Eucharist renew in us a steadfast heart to build our lives and vocations upon Christ, the Rock that never fails. In a world shaken by many storms, make our faith firm and our love enduring, so that Your Church may stand secure and radiant in holiness).*

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,  
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall,  
so that they may become for us  
the Body and + Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed  
and entered willingly into his Passion,  
he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended,  
he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks,  
he gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR  
MANY  
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.  
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.**

The mystery of faith.

Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial  
of his Death and Resurrection,  
we offer you, Lord,  
the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation,  
giving thanks that you have held us worthy  
to be in your presence and minister to you.

*(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day:*

*Lord, as we recall the saving mystery of Christ—His Death, Resurrection, and promise to return—strengthen us to build wisely on this foundation of faith. May this memorial make us living stones in Your spiritual house, firm in charity, steadfast in vocation, and ready for the coming of Your Kingdom. Grant that those discerning Your call may find courage to trust You, the Rock who never fails.*

Humbly we pray  
that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,  
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world,  
and bring her to the fullness of charity,  
together with N. our Pope and N. our Bishop,  
all the clergy and all who serve your people in faith and truth.

Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy:  
welcome them into the light of your face.

Have mercy on us all, we pray,  
that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,  
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,  
with the blessed Apostles,  
and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages,  
we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life,  
and may praise and glorify you  
through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
O God, almighty Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour is yours,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER** (adapted to the readings)

Let us pray now with the words Jesus gave us—  
not only with our lips, but with hearts ready to follow His will, to build wisely on His Word and remain firm in every trial.

**EMBOLISM** (adapted to the readings)

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every storm and shaking,  
and graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, anchored in Your mercy  
and built upon the rock of Your Word,  
we may be firm in faith and free from sin,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

## PRAYER FOR PEACE (adapted to the readings)

Lord Jesus Christ, You are our peace in every storm.  
Still the turmoil of our hearts,  
and help us trust in You more than in the world.  
Guide those You are calling to priesthood and religious life,  
that Your Church may shine with courage and compassion.  
You who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION (adapted to the readings)

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold Him who is our firm foundation and peace.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb—  
who build their lives on His Word and trust in His love.

## MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION

“How shall I receive You and how shall I meet You,  
O longing of all the world, O joy of my soul?  
O Jesus, Jesus, set a torch for me,  
So that what delights You may be known and understood  
by me.” — *Paul Gerhardt*

As we receive Christ in the Eucharist, may He light a fire in

our hearts, giving us wisdom to know His will, courage to live it, and strength to build our lives on His love.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (from the Missal)

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.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (adapted to the readings)

Lord God,  
You have renewed us with the Bread of Life—  
Christ, our Rock and Redeemer.  
Strengthen us in faith,  
fill us with readiness for His coming,  
and raise up among us faithful servants for Your Church.  
Rooted in Christ, may we endure every storm with peace  
and joy. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## FINAL BLESSING (adapted to the readings)

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May His face shine upon you and give you peace.

May you stand firm on Christ, the Rock,

as you listen, live, and prepare for His coming.

And may Almighty God bless you, the Father  and the

Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL (adapted to the readings)

Go in peace, building your life on Christ, the Rock.

Live His Word, support vocations, and prepare the way of  
the Lord.

## TAKE-HOME THOUGHT (adapted to the readings)

Build your life on the Rock that never moves—Jesus  
Christ.

Every day of Advent, open the door of your heart to Him.

Listen to His Word. Trust in His call. Live out His will.

And pray for vocations—so that the Church may be strong,  
and the world may know the joy of a life built on His love.

## Friday of the First Week of Advent

*Is 29:17–24; Mt 9:27–31*

*Faith that brings healing and spiritual sight.*

### INTRODUCTION

A few years ago, a man named Peter lost nearly everything—his business, his confidence, even his sense of purpose. One Advent evening, sitting quietly in church, he whispered, “Lord, I can’t see where you’re leading me anymore.”

In that still moment, a child beside him lit one small candle on the Advent wreath, and Peter suddenly realized: *Even one light can break through great darkness.*

Today, Isaiah promises that same light—the blind shall see, the humble shall rejoice, and hearts once closed will be opened. In the Gospel, two blind men cry out in faith and receive healing.

Their blindness becomes the doorway to new sight.

The same Jesus walks among us this Advent.

Can we trust Him to heal our blindness—to His presence,

to our neighbour, or to our own calling?

Let us prepare our hearts to receive His healing light.

### PENITENTIAL ACT (adapted to the readings)

Let us call to mind our spiritual blindness and ask the Lord to open our eyes and hearts.

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world—yet we often prefer the shadows. Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you ask us, “Do you believe I can help you?”—but we hesitate to trust. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you touch and heal those who come in faith—yet we keep you at a distance. Lord, have mercy.

### May Almighty God,

who opens the eyes of the blind and restores sight to the faithful, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. *Amen.*

### COLLECT (From the Missal)

Stir up your power, we pray, O Lord, and come, that with you to protect us,

we may find rescue  
from the pressing dangers of our sins,  
and with you to set us free,  
we may be found worthy of salvation.  
Who lives and reigns with God the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### COLLECT (adapted to the readings)

Lord our God,  
in your mercy you open blind eyes and soften hardened  
hearts.  
Come with your power, deliver us from the burdens of sin,  
and help us to walk in the light of your truth.  
Grant this 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. Amen.

### HOMILY – “Do You Believe I Can Do This?”

A missionary once told a story from his work in Africa. A man who had been blind from birth came to him and said,

“I want to see, but even more, I want to believe.” After they prayed together, the man didn’t regain physical sight—but he began to help others who were blind. “I still walk in darkness,” he said, “but now I walk with light inside me.”

In today’s Gospel, Jesus meets two blind men who follow Him, crying out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!” But notice—He doesn’t heal them right away. Instead, He asks, *“Do you believe I can do this?”* That question still echoes to every believer: *Do you believe I can bring light into your darkness?*

I once met a woman who had lost her sight in a car accident. When I asked what she missed most, she said softly, “Seeing the faces of those I love.” Then she added, “Yet I see more now than I did before. I notice kindness in voices, faith in hearts. When I lost my sight, I found my vision.”

The blind men in the Gospel are a mirror for us. Though unable to see, they trust. They follow, persist, and believe even when ignored. Their blindness becomes

faith's testing ground. They don't ask *if* Jesus is willing—they already know He is.

Isaiah foresaw this day: when the eyes of the blind would open, the deaf would hear, and the humble would rejoice. Advent is that promise come alive—a season for believing that healing is not only possible, but already beginning.

But faith must come before the miracle. The men say, "Yes, Lord, we believe." Then Jesus touches their eyes.

Where are we blind today—to the goodness of others, to God's nearness in hardship, or to the call of mercy we ignore?

Jesus still heals—often quietly, through the patience to forgive, the courage to begin again, or the peace that replaces fear. Faith opens the door to healing, and Advent invites us to answer Jesus' question with a confident, "Yes, Lord, I believe."

A story is told of a little boy who was afraid of the dark. One night his father gave him a lantern and said, "This small light won't show you the whole road—but it will

always shine on your next step."

Faith is that kind of light. It doesn't reveal everything, but it helps us keep walking—trusting that Jesus walks before us.

So this Advent, let our prayer be the same as the blind men's:

"Have mercy on us, Son of David."

And when He asks, "Do you believe I can do this?"—may our hearts answer, "Yes, Lord, we believe."

## **INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS** **(adapted to the readings)**

As we bring our gifts to the altar,  
let us ask the Lord who opened the eyes of the blind  
to open our hearts in faith,  
that these offerings may become signs of His healing and  
love and be acceptable to God the Father almighty.

## **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS (from the Missal)**

Be pleased, O Lord, with our humble payers 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.

### **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS** (adapted to the readings)

God of light and healing,  
receive these gifts of bread and wine.

As they become the Body and Blood of Christ,  
open our hearts to your mercy  
and our eyes to your wonders,  
that we may see and share your love in this world.

Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **PREFACE – “Christ, Light for the Blind and Hope for the Faithful”**

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.

He came to seek those who sit in darkness  
and to restore sight to the blind in body and in soul.  
In Him, the cries of faith are heard,  
and to those who believe, healing is given.

Through His touch, the blind see;  
by His word, the hearts of the humble rejoice;  
in His presence, the darkness of fear is scattered.

Even now, in this Advent season,  
He draws near to those who call out,  
"Have mercy on us, Son of David!"  
and He enters the house of our hearts  
to awaken faith, grant peace, and offer new light.

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:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...**

## EUCARISTIC PRAYER – “*Faith that brings healing and spiritual sight*”

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,  
the fount of all holiness.

(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day:

*As you once opened the eyes of the blind and made faith their light, so too, O Lord, open our hearts in this Eucharist. We come before you like those two men of the Gospel — crying out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David.”*

*In your mercy, touch our blindness with the healing of your presence, that our faith may make us whole and our eyes may see your glory).*

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,  
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall,  
so that they may become for us  
the Body and + Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed  
and entered willingly into his Passion,  
he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended,  
he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks,  
he gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR  
MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.  
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.**

*The mystery of faith.*

Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection, we offer you, Lord,

the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation,  
giving thanks that you have held us worthy  
to be in your presence and minister to you.

*(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day: Lord, as we remember the saving work of your Son, grant that this memorial may also open the eyes of our hearts.*

*Through this mystery of faith,  
may the blind see, the discouraged find hope,  
and all who walk in darkness discover the light of Christ.  
Strengthen in us the faith that believes even before seeing,  
that trusts even amid trial,  
and that rejoices when your healing love is revealed).*

Humbly we pray  
that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,  
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the  
world, and bring her to the fullness of charity,

together with N. our Pope and N. our Bishop,  
all the clergy and all who serve your people.

Remember also our brothers and sisters  
who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection,  
and all who have died in your mercy:  
welcome them into the light of your face.

Have mercy on us all, we pray,  
that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,  
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,  
with the blessed Apostles,  
and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the  
ages,  
we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life,  
and may praise and glorify you  
through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, and with him, and in him... **Amen.**

## INVITATION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER (adapted to the readings)

Trusting in God's mercy and healing love,  
and with faith in the One who opens our eyes and hearts,  
let us pray as Jesus taught us:

## EMBOLISM (adapted to the readings)

Deliver us, Lord, we pray,  
from every blindness of heart, and graciously grant light to  
our eyes and peace to our days, that, by the help of your  
mercy, we may be free from doubt and safe from despair,  
as we await with steadfast faith the healing you have  
promised and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

## PRAYER FOR PEACE BEFORE COMMUNION (adapted to the readings)

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you opened the eyes of the blind  
and brought peace to troubled hearts.  
Look with mercy on your Church and on this world in need  
of your light.  
Grant us the peace that comes from seeing as you see—

with faith, with compassion, and with hope—  
you who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION (adapted to the readings)

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who opens the eyes of the blind,  
heals the broken-hearted,  
and takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those who, with faith like the blind men,  
are called to the supper of the Lamb,  
to receive the healing touch of Christ.

## MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION (adapted to the readings)

Lord Jesus, like the blind men, we have cried out,  
"Have mercy on us, Son of David."  
You have come into our house, into our hearts.  
You have touched our eyes with your Body and Blood.  
Help us now to see—  
To see you in the hurting,  
To see hope in the dark,  
To see new beginnings where we once saw dead ends.

Let your presence shine in our blindness.  
And let our faith be stronger than what we see.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (from the Missal)

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.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (adapted to the readings)

God of mercy,  
you have touched our lives through this holy mystery.  
Heal our blindness, restore our sight,  
and make us witnesses of your love in the world.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### FINAL BLESSING

May the God of light and promise bless you this Advent,  
with eyes that see his coming, hearts that welcome his  
Word, and lives that reflect his love.

And may almighty God bless you,  
*the Father, and the Son  and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

### DISMISSAL (adapted to the readings)

Go forth in the peace of Christ,  
who restores sight to the blind, gives hope to the humble,  
and brings healing to all who believe.  
May your faith shine as a light in the darkness,  
and may you share the joy of Christ's healing love  
with all you meet.

### TAKE-HOME THOUGHT (adapted to the readings)

**Jesus asks each of us, “Do you believe I can do this?”**  
Faith is not seeing, but trusting—  
Trusting that even in our darkness, He is at work.  
Go home today with the confidence of the blind men:  
**“Yes, Lord, I believe.”**  
Let that be your Advent prayer. Let that be your Advent  
miracle.

## Saturday of the First Week of Advent

Is 30:19–21, 23–26; Mt 9:35–10:1, 6–8

*Compassion, healing, discipleship, and gift of grace.*

### INTRODUCTION

A few winters ago, a woman in a small mountain town noticed her elderly neighbour struggling to carry groceries through the snow. Without thinking twice, she rushed over, took the bags from his hands, and helped him home. Later, he told her, “You came just when I needed someone most.”

That small act of compassion mirrors today’s Advent message. God, too, comes to us when we most need Him. Through Isaiah, He promises to bind the wounds of His people. In the Gospel, Jesus walks among the crowds, sees their suffering, and responds—not with words alone, but with healing and mission.

Advent is not a time of passive waiting; it’s a time of compassionate seeing and generous responding. Christ still walks among us—binding wounds, healing hearts, and calling us to do the same. Let us bring to Him our

weariness and our hope, for He is the Shepherd who knows and loves His flock.

### PENITENTIAL ACT (adapted to the readings)

Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who never abandons His flock. You call us by name and walk beside us in our weakness and confusion.

Let us ask for your mercy. Lord Jesus, you proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom of God: Lord have mercy. Christ Jesus, you heal the wounds of body, mind, and spirit: Christ have mercy. Lord Jesus, you call and send us as labourers into your harvest: Lord have mercy.

### PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION (adapted to the readings)

As we turn to the Lord who sees our wounds and walks beside us, may Almighty God, in His boundless compassion, have mercy on us, bind up our hurts, forgive us our sins, and strengthen us to follow Christ with generous hearts—healing, proclaiming, and serving in His name—so that we may walk together into everlasting life. Amen.

## Collect (from the Missal)

O God, who sent your only Begotten Son into this world to free the human race from its ancient enslavement, bestow on those who devoutly await him the grace of your compassion from on high, that we may attain the prize of true freedom. 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. Amen.

## COLLECT (adapted to the readings)

O God, compassionate Father, who never cease to guide your people in paths of peace and healing, awaken in us the voice of your Spirit that we may hear your call, walk in your way, and become heralds of your 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. Amen.

## HOMILY: "Moved with Compassion"

Years ago, a nurse in a war-torn village in Syria found a little girl shivering beneath a collapsed wall. The child was covered in dust and too weak to cry. The nurse picked her up, wrapped her in her own scarf, and whispered, "You are safe now." That small act didn't end the war, but in that moment, compassion became flesh—it healed a broken spirit.

"When Jesus saw the crowds," says the Gospel, "He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

That word Greek word for *compassion* (*splagchnizomai*) means being moved from the very depths of one's being. Jesus didn't merely see the crowds; He *felt* them—their hunger, their fear, their exhaustion. He saw people not as problems to fix, but as hearts to love.

In our fast-paced, distracted world, compassion can easily fade. We scroll past suffering, excuse ourselves with busyness, or convince ourselves that someone else will help. But Advent calls us back to the heart of Christ—to the

place where seeing leads to feeling, and feeling leads to action.

A priest once told the story of visiting a children's hospital. One little boy lay quietly with a handmade card in his hand. "It's from my class," he whispered. "They remembered me." The card didn't change his illness, but it changed his day. He felt seen, valued, loved. That's what Jesus does—He notices, He feels, He heals.

And then, He sends. "You received without charge; give without charge."

Discipleship means sharing what we ourselves have freely received: mercy, forgiveness, grace. St. Teresa of Kolkata once said, "If you judge people, you have no time to love them." Her mission was not about solving poverty alone—it was about restoring dignity, one soul at a time.

Brothers and sisters, Advent is our training ground for compassion. Every Eucharist strengthens us to see as Jesus sees, to feel as Jesus feels, and to act as Jesus acts.

A story is told of a man who rescued a starfish washed

ashore. A passerby said, "There are thousands—what difference can one make?" The man tossed one gently back into the sea and replied, "It made a difference to that one."

So too, your compassion—your listening ear, your helping hand, your quiet prayer—may seem small. But to someone lost, weary, or forgotten, it can be the face of Christ. You received without charge—now give without charge. That is the Advent way of love.

### **INVITATION TO THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS** *(adapted to the readings)*

With hearts open to the Lord's mercy, let us bring to the altar the gifts of our hands and the wounds of our world, trusting that His compassion will transform them into grace, and that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the Father almighty.

### **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS (from the Missal)**

May the sacrifice of our worship, Lord, we pray, be offered to you unceasingly,

to complete what was begun in sacred mystery  
and powerfully accomplish for us your saving work.  
Through Christ our Lord.

### **PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS** (adapted to the readings)

Loving God,  
in your mercy, you provide for the earth and its people.  
As we bring these gifts of bread and wine,  
we bring also the wounds of the world.  
Use these gifts and use us—  
that we may become signs of your compassion  
and agents of your healing love.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **PREFACE: “God of Compassion and Promise”**

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.

You promised through the prophets  
to send a shepherd to guide your people,

a healer for their wounds,  
and a light for their darkness.

In Jesus Christ, your Son,  
you walked among the weary,  
you wept with the broken,  
and you gave hope to the forgotten.

Now, as we await His coming in glory,  
we live in the light of His mercy  
and proclaim your love to all creation.

And so, with angels and saints,  
we sing the hymn of your glory:  
**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord...**

### **EUCARISTIC PRAYER (as in the Missal)**

You are indeed Holy, O Lord, the fount of all holiness.

*(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day: **As we gather at this altar, O Lord, we remember how your Son walked among the weary and broken,***

*moved with compassion for all who were harassed and helpless,*

*healing their wounds and calling disciples to share His mercy.*

*Here in this bread and wine,  
you continue to draw near to your people—  
to bind up our hurts, restore our strength,  
and make of us instruments of your healing love).*

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,  
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall,  
so that they may become for us  
the Body and + Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed  
and entered willingly into his Passion,  
he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.**

In a similar way, when supper was ended,  
he took the chalice and, once more giving thanks,  
he gave it to his disciples, saying:

**TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR  
MANY FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.**

**DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.**

*The mystery of faith.*

Therefore, as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection,  
we offer you, Lord,  
the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation,  
giving thanks that you have held us worthy  
to be in your presence and minister to you.

*(Optional thematic insertion based on the readings of the day: *Lord, as we remember the compassion of your Son, who fed the hungry, healed the sick, and called disciples by**

*name, renew in us that same spirit of mercy and mission. May this memorial of love strengthen our hands to serve freely, open our hearts to see the suffering around us, and send us forth to proclaim your Kingdom—that every act of kindness and every word of comfort may become a sign of your Advent grace in our world).*

Humbly we pray  
that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,  
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world,  
and bring her to the fullness of charity,  
together with N. our Pope and N. our Bishop, the clergy  
and all who serve your people.

Remember also our brothers and sisters  
who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection,  
and all who have died in your mercy:  
welcome them into the light of your face.

Have mercy on us all, we pray,  
that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,  
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,  
with the blessed Apostles,  
and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages,  
we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life,  
and may praise and glorify you  
through your Son, Jesus Christ.

**Through him, and with him, and in him... Amen.**

**INVITATION TO THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(adapted to the readings)*

As sons and daughters of a compassionate Father,  
who calls us to serve with open hands and humble hearts,  
let us pray for His Kingdom to come, saying:

**EMBOLISM** *(adapted to the readings)*

**Deliver us, Lord, we pray,**  
from every hardness of heart;  
graciously grant us the peace that flows from Your mercy,

that, moved by the compassion of Christ,  
we may be stirred from within  
to see the weary, to hear the forgotten,  
and to serve the broken without counting the cost,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Shepherd and Savior, Jesus Christ.

#### **PRAYER FOR PEACE** (adapted to the readings)

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you looked upon the weary with compassion  
and brought peace to troubled hearts.  
Grant us the peace that heals division,  
restores hope, and sends us forth  
as instruments of your healing love,  
who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**Behold the Lamb of God,**  
behold Him who takes away the wounds of the world,  
the Shepherd who heals and restores.  
Blessed are we who are called to this sacred meal—

to receive not only bread and wine,  
but the grace to carry Christ's compassion into the world.

#### **MEDITATION AFTER COMMUNION**(adapted to the readings)

It is good  
when someone sees me in my tiredness.  
It is good  
when someone understands without needing many words.  
It is good  
when someone walks with me, carries the burden with me.  
Lord Jesus,  
in this communion, you walk with us,  
and you send us to walk with others. *"Let your face shine upon us, Lord, that we may be saved."* (Ps 80)

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (from the Missal)**

We implore your mercy, Lord,  
that this divine sustenance  
may cleanse us of our faults

and prepare us for the coming feasts.

Through Christ our Lord.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** (adapted to the readings)

God of mercy and mission,

you have nourished us with the Body and Blood of your Son.

Strengthen us now to walk in His way—

to comfort the weary, to proclaim your Kingdom, and to serve your people freely and joyfully.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **FINAL BLESSING** (adapted to the readings)

May the God of all compassion bless you,

the Father who heals your wounds,

the Son who walks beside you,

and the Holy Spirit who sends you forth. Amen.

**And may Almighty God bless you,**

**the Father, and the Son  and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL** (adapted to the readings)

**Go forth in peace—proclaim the Kingdom of God is near!** **or**

Go forth in the peace of Christ, the Good Shepherd who binds up our wounds.

Go forth to walk with the weary, to heal the broken-hearted, and to proclaim the coming of God's Kingdom through acts of mercy and love.

May the grace you have received strengthen you to serve freely and joyfully, until we meet again in the fullness of eternal life.

### **TAKE-HOME THOUGHT** (adapted to the readings)

*“You received without charge; give without charge.”*

This week, find one way to share what you've freely received—a kind word, a small gift, a listening ear.

Be the face of God's compassion to someone who feels forgotten. *The Kingdom of God draws near—through you.*