

First Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Today's biblical texts invite us to be prepared always to meet the Lord. It's not a preparation for death, but for new life. God's life is already in our midst as we share our faith with others. This life was announced by the prophet Isaiah who, in today's first reading, recognizes the mercy of God, whom he calls "father." Saint Paul joyfully shared this new life with the communities entrusted to his care as he recognized in them the gifts of the Holy Spirit. What about us? Are we prepared to meet the Lord during this season of joyful expectations? How can we better prepare ourselves to invite others to share our faith in God, whom we call "Father"?

First Reading

Isaiah 63:16b-17b, 19b, 64:2-7 Isaiah prophesied, "All our good deeds are like polluted rags; we have all withered like leaves....We are the clay and you are the potter: we are the work of your hands."

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Paul wrote, "God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. You are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 85:8

Gospel

Mark 13:33-37 Jesus said, "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come....Watch, therefore" whether at sunset, midnight, cock crow, or sunrise. "Watch!"