

Advent is a reminder that our life on earth is a preparation for the life of eternity in heaven; and that we wait for the coming of Christ to take us home.

Be on your guard, Stay awake.



Focus 'God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.' (1 Cor 1:9)

This great line from today's second reading is a good first step into our Advent journey. The Bible is a detailed record of God's search for us. The first question in Genesis 3:9 from God is addressed to Adam. He is playing his own version of hide and seek in a garden: 'Where are you?' Advent is a time to answer God's question that is addressed to each of us.


In the Gospel, Mary Magdalene is in another garden. She discovers that the risen Lord has found her. She hears her name in a new way and is asked to proclaim the resurrection. She is asked to 'Go and tell' as an apostle to the apostles (John 20:17). How did she hear her name? Was it a gentle whisper? Was it an excited exclamation? Was it in astonishment? Was it a determined declaration?

Help me, Lord, to answer when you call.
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From Fr Cullen's Alert, Aware, Attentive: Advent Reflections, available from www.messenger.ie/books, €4.95.

Jesus' Story Fr. Liam Hickey

Many people think that God is far away, and is like a judge watching our faults. Jesus is always inviting us to see God in a new way, to 'wake up,' that we have A Loving Father, who always loves us in good days and sad days. God is near and present in the beauty of the world and all its colours, green grass and flowers, rivers and mountains, sport and new exciting ideas. God's special presence is in the new baby and the faces of all people. Going to Mass celebrates God with us all the time.





ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

GREETING

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division: Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. May almighty God have mercy on us.... Amen.



(The Gloria is omitted awaiting its Christmas Proclamation.)

OPENING PRAYER

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8
A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name

or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand. **The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps. 79)

R. God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. [R]

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. [R]

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. [R]

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 13:33-37

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you

asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

All bow for following three lines: and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit. Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right and just.

SANCTUS

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

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith. Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

THE ADVENT WREATH

The circle of evergreen leaves stands for God who is without beginning and without end. The purple ribbon and three purple candles stand for penance and sorrow for sin. The red candle stands for joy of living in God's way of love. Today the first purple candle is lit as we begin our preparations for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit. May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. Amen. Go in peace. Thanks be to God.