

# *Dominica I Adventus A*

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Lectio Divina by Fr. Randy Soto

## I. Lectio

A. The context of our 1<sup>st</sup> reading from Isaiah is the imminent threat that the Assyrian empire placed on Jerusalem (702 BC). The people from Judah had all the reasons to fear the Assyrians for the Northern Kingdom of Samaria was utterly destroyed in 721 BC. The prophet announces to Judah that such calamity will not happen to Jerusalem and brings tidings of peace for all peoples. In the context of the Liturgy of this 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, this prophecy has Messianic overtones that obviously speak of Jesus Christ the bringer of Peace to all the citizens of the true Jerusalem, that of Heaven..

B. Ps 122 invites the whole People of God to rejoice in the coming of the Messiah in this song of praise: *"I rejoiced when I heard them say, let us go to the house of the Lord"* For us Christians death is not an occasion of fear but of joy; for we know we are meeting the Prince of Peace.

C. Paul invites the community of Rome prepared for the day of Salvation by waking up so as to leave behind the works of darkness and to clothe ourselves with the weapons of the light, i.e., Jesus Christ and his Gospel.

D. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells us that we must wait vigilantly for his 2<sup>nd</sup> coming for we do not know the time nor the hour.

## III. Meditatio

A. There is one theme running throughout all the readings of today: God announces that new times are about to happen, a new era is at hand. We must correspond to that announcement with gratitude and plentiful joy. The hope that comes from God's word moves us to change our style of life and to lift up our heads to look out for his return. This is what the Church calls for in this Advent season: *to prepare the way of the Lord*. In a deceptive world where sin, lies and death seem to have taken our freedom and joy away, we here today good tidings indeed, there is hope, there is life in Jesus who came 2000 years ago, who will come again *at the sound of the Trumpet*, and who comes to us every day in the Holy Eucharist.

B. Other themes: waiting (Gospel), trust (Psalm), charity (Rom), hope (Isa), promise (Isa), light/dark (Rom), Parousia or Second Coming, vigilance and urgency (Gospel).

## III. Oratio

During Advent we just don't wait passively for the Lord's coming, no, our wait a confident going towards to meet the Lord, thus we begin our celebration by quoting Ps 24 which reads: *"To you, my God, I lift my soul, I trust in you;"* (Introit) and *"Now we watch*

*for the day, hoping that the salvation promised us will be ours when Christ our Lord will come again in his glory" (Preface); and because anxiety may take away our peace we ask for an "increase of our strength of will for doing good so that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven" (OP); we also pray that God may accept our offering and sustain us with his promise of eternal life (PG). We rejoice because the Lord will shower his gifts, and our land will yield its fruit (CA). Finally, we pray for love and hope: "may our communion teach us to love heaven. May its promise and hope guide our way on earth." (PC).*

### III. Contemplatio

Let the evergreen and the lights with which we make the Advent Wreath be a source of contemplation in this waiting season. Each Sunday a new light is lit, in hopes the this wreath may illumine our paths towards Christ who is coming to meet us.

### Advent Wreath Prayer

The following are the Advent wreath prayers that change every week. They are prayed at the lighting of each candle every day during Advent.

#### Week I

*The first candle is lit, and the prayer for the first week is said.*

#### Priest

Stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, O Lord,  
and come, so that we may escape through Thy protection  
and be saved by Thy help from the dangers  
that threaten us because of our sins.  
Who livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen

#### Week II

*Two candles are lit on the second Sunday and allowed to burn as before.*

#### Priest

O Lord, stir up our hearts  
that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son,  
that through His coming  
we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure souls.  
Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen

#### Week III

*Three candles, including the rose candle, are lit on this Gaudete Sunday, and during that week.*

#### Priest

We humbly beg Thee, O Lord,  
to listen to our prayers;

and by the grace of Thy coming  
bring light into our darkened minds.  
Who livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen

**Week IV**

*All four candles are lit on the fourth Sunday and allowed to burn as before.*

**Priest**

Stir up Thy might, we pray Thee, O Lord, and come;  
rescue us through Thy great strength so that salvation,  
which has been hindered by our sins,  
may be hastened by the grace of Thy gentle mercy.  
Who livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen