

# ADVENT SUNDAY 1

## 1st Reading – Isaiah 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7

<sup>16B</sup> You are our Father, O Lord our Redeemer. Your name is beyond all ages.<sup>17</sup> Why have you allowed us to stray from your ways, O Lord? Why have you hardened our heart, so that we do not fear you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance.<sup>19B</sup> Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you, while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for, such as they had not heard of from of old.<sup>2</sup> They would melt, as if thoroughly burned by fire. The waters would burn with fire, so that your name might be made known to your enemies, so that the nations would be stirred up before your face.<sup>3</sup> From ages past, they have not heard it, and they have not perceived it with the ears. Apart from you, O God, the eye has not seen what you have prepared for those who await you.<sup>4</sup> You have met with those who rejoice in doing justice. By your ways, they will remember you. Behold, you have been angry, for we have sinned. In this, we have continued, but we will be saved.<sup>5</sup> And we have all become like the unclean. And all our justices are like a rag of menstruation. And we have all fallen away, like a leaf. And our iniquities have carried us away, like the wind.<sup>6</sup> There is no one who calls upon your name, who rises up and holds fast to you. You have concealed your face from us, and you have crushed us with the hand of our own iniquity.<sup>7</sup> And now, O Lord, you are our Father, yet truly, we are clay. And you are our Maker, and we are all the works of your hands.

## Responsorial Psalm – Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

**R. (4) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

<sup>2</sup> O shepherd of Israel, hearken, from your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth.

<sup>3</sup> Rouse your power, and come to save us.

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

<sup>15</sup> Once again, O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven, and see; take care of this vine,

<sup>16</sup> and protect what your right hand has planted the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

<sup>18</sup> May your help be with the man of your right hand, with the son of man whom you yourself made strong.

<sup>19</sup> Then we will no more withdraw from you; give us new life, and we will call upon your name.

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

## 2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Brothers and sisters:

<sup>3</sup> Grace to you, and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> I give thanks to my God always for you, for the grace of God that is given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup> That in all things you are made rich in him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; <sup>6</sup> As the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, <sup>7</sup> So that nothing is wanting to you in any grace, waiting for the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> Who also will confirm you unto the end without crime, in the day of the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful: by whom you are called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Alleluia – Psalms 85:8

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

<sup>8</sup> Show us Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## Gospel – Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples:

<sup>33</sup> "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup> It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup> Watch,

therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. <sup>36</sup> May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.

<sup>37</sup> What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

## ADVENT SUNDAY 2

### 1st Reading – Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

<sup>1</sup> “Be consoled, be consoled, O my people!” says your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak to the heart of Jerusalem, and call out to her! For her malice has reached its end. Her iniquity has been forgiven. She has received double for all her sins from the hand of the Lord. <sup>3</sup> The voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight the paths of our God, in a solitary place. <sup>4</sup> Every valley will be exalted, and every mountain and hill will be brought low. And the crooked will be straightened, and the uneven will become level ways. <sup>5</sup> And the glory of the Lord will be revealed. And all flesh together will see that the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” <sup>9</sup> You who evangelize Zion, climb a high mountain! You who evangelize Jerusalem, lift up your voice with strength! Lift it up! Do not be afraid! Say to the cities of Judah: “Behold, your God!” <sup>10</sup> Behold, the Lord God will arrive in strength, and his arm will rule. Behold, his reward is with him, and his work is before him. <sup>11</sup> He will pasture his flock like a shepherd. He will gather together the lambs with his arm, and he will lift them up to his bosom, and he himself will carry the very young.

### Responsorial Psalm – Psalms 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

**R. (8) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

<sup>9</sup> I will hear what the Lord God will speak in me: for he will speak peace unto his people.

<sup>10</sup> Surely his salvation is near to them that fear him: that glory may dwell in our land.

**R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**  
Mercy and truth have met each other:  
justice and peace have kissed.

<sup>12</sup> Truth is sprung out of the earth:  
and justice has looked down from heaven.

**R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**  
<sup>13</sup> For the Lord will give goodness:  
and our earth shall yield her fruit.

<sup>14</sup> Justice shall walk before him:  
and shall set his steps in the way.

**R. Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

### 2nd Reading – 2 Peter 3:8-14

<sup>8</sup> Let this one thing not escape notice, most beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years is like one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not delaying his promise, as some imagine, but he does act patiently for your sake, not wanting anyone to perish, but wanting all to be turned back to penance. <sup>10</sup> Then the day of the Lord shall arrive like a thief. On that day, the heavens shall pass away with great violence, and truly the elements shall be dissolved with heat; then the earth, and the works that are within it, shall be completely burned up. <sup>11</sup> Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what kind of people ought you to be? In behavior and in piety, be holy, <sup>12</sup> waiting for, and hurrying toward, the advent of the day of the Lord, by which the burning heavens shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt from the heat of the fire. <sup>13</sup> Yet truly, in accord with his promises, we are looking forward to the new heavens and the new earth, in which justice lives. <sup>14</sup> Therefore, most beloved, while awaiting these things, be diligent, so that you may be found to be immaculate and unassailable before him, in peace.

### Alleluia – Luke 3:4, 6.

**<sup>4</sup> Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: <sup>6</sup> All flesh shall see the salvation of God.**

**Gospel – Mark 1:1-8** <sup>1</sup> The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. <sup>2</sup> As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: “Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. <sup>3</sup> A voice of one crying out in the desert: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.’” <sup>4</sup> John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. <sup>6</sup> John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this is what he proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water; but he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

# ADVENT SUNDAY 3

## 1st Reading – Isaiah 61:1-2A, 10-11

<sup>1</sup> The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to preach to the meek, to heal the contrite of heart, to preach leniency to captives and release to the confined,<sup>2A</sup> and so to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord and the day of vindication of our God.

<sup>10</sup> I will rejoice greatly in the Lord, and my soul will exult in my God. For he has clothed me with the vestments of salvation, and he has wrapped me in the clothing of justice, like a groom arrayed with a crown, and like a bride adorned with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its seedlings and the garden produces its seeds, so will the Lord God bring forth justice and praise in the sight of all the nations.

## Responsorial Psalm – Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54

### R. (Isaiah 61:10b) My soul rejoices in my God.

<sup>46</sup> My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;

<sup>47</sup> my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has looked upon his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

<sup>49</sup> the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

<sup>50</sup> He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

<sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

R. My soul rejoices in my God.

## 2nd Reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Brothers and sisters: <sup>16</sup> Always rejoice. <sup>17</sup> Pray without ceasing. <sup>18</sup> Give thanks in everything. For this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for all of you.

<sup>19</sup> Do not choose to extinguish the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not spurn prophecies. <sup>21</sup> But test all things. Hold on to whatever is good. <sup>22</sup> Abstain from every kind of evil.

<sup>23</sup> And may the God of peace himself sanctify you through all things, so that your whole spirit and soul and body may be preserved without blame unto the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> He who has called you is faithful. He shall act even now.

## Alleluia – Isaiah 61:1 (CITED IN Luke 4:18)

### R. Alleluia, alleluia.

<sup>1</sup> The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

### R. Alleluia, alleluia.

## Gospel – John 1:6-8, 19-28

<sup>6</sup> A man named John was sent from God. <sup>7</sup> He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but was to give testimony of the light. <sup>19</sup> And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, “Who are you?” <sup>20</sup> he admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, “I am not the Messiah.” <sup>21</sup> So they asked him, “What are you then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” He answered, “No.” <sup>22</sup> So they said to him, “Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?” <sup>23</sup> He said: “I am ‘the voice of one crying out in the desert, “Make straight the way of the Lord,”’ as Isaiah the prophet said.” <sup>24</sup> Some Pharisees were also sent. <sup>25</sup> They asked him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet?” <sup>26</sup> John answered them, “I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, <sup>27</sup> the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.” <sup>28</sup> These things were done in Bethania, beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

## ADVENT SUNDAY 4

### 1st Reading – 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16

<sup>1</sup> When King David was settled in his palace, and the LORD had given him rest from his enemies on every side, <sup>2</sup> he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God dwells in a tent!”<sup>3</sup> Nathan answered the king, “Go, do whatever you have in mind, for the LORD is with you.” <sup>4</sup> But that night the LORD spoke to Nathan and said: <sup>5</sup> “Go, tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Should you build me a house to dwell in?’”<sup>8B</sup> “It was I who took you from the pasture and from the care of the flock to be commander of my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> I have been with you wherever you went, and I have destroyed all your enemies before you. And I will make you famous like the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup> I will fix a place for my people Israel; I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance. Neither shall the wicked continue to afflict them as they did of old, <sup>11</sup> since the time I first appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also reveals to you that he will establish a house for you. <sup>12</sup> And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. <sup>14A</sup> I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. <sup>16</sup> Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever.”

### Responsorial Psalm – Psalms 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29

**R. (2a) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

<sup>2</sup> The promises of the LORD I will sing forever; through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness. <sup>3</sup> For you have said, “My kindness is established forever”; in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness.

**R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

<sup>4</sup> “I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant:

<sup>5</sup> Forever will I confirm your posterity and establish your throne for all generations.”

**R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

<sup>27</sup> “He shall say of me, ‘You are my father, my God, the Rock, my savior.’”

<sup>29</sup> Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him, and my covenant with him stands firm.”

**R. For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

### 2nd Reading – Romans 16:25-27

Brothers and sisters: <sup>25</sup> Now to him who is able to confirm you according to my Gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, in accord with the revelation of the mystery which has been hidden from time immemorial, <sup>26</sup> (which now has been made clear through the Scriptures of the Prophets, in accord with the precept of the eternal God, unto the obedience of faith) which has been made known among all the Gentiles: <sup>27</sup> to God, who alone is wise, through Jesus Christ, to him be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

<sup>38</sup> Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.

May it be done to me according to your word.

### Gospel – Luke 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup> And in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee, called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And coming to her, he said, “Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” blessed are you among women. <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, <sup>33</sup> And of his kingdom there shall be no end. <sup>34</sup> But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?” <sup>35</sup> And the angel said to her in reply, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold your cousin Elizabeth, she also has conceived a son in her old age; and this is the sixth month with her who is called barren: <sup>37</sup> Because no word shall be impossible with God. <sup>38</sup> And Mary said: Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word. And the angel departed from her.”

## THE MAIN FIGURES WE MEET IN ADVENT

### The Prophet Isaiah

**Isaiah's Advent message.** Isaiah is the prophet who guides our journey through Advent as we prepare for Christmas. Advent is a season of joyful anticipation, and Isaiah invites us to look forward to the coming of the Messiah, to prepare the way of the Lord. Isaiah urges us to straighten out our crooked ways. It is a time to turn away from sin and receive forgiveness. Advent is also about the arrival of the reign of God, a kingdom of justice and peace, and Isaiah urges us to obey the Lord's instruction, walk in the ways of peace, follow the promptings of the Spirit, and be just in thought, word and deed. Advent is a time to be filled with hope, rejoice in glad tidings and welcome the Messiah.

**Messianic expectation.** The prophet Isaiah eagerly looked forward to the day of the Messiah. He, along with all of Israel, was keenly aware of the promise that God made to Moses: "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kinsmen, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him" (Deuteronomy 18:18); a promise also made to King David: "I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me" (2 Samuel 7:12b,14).

**The Immanuel prophecies.** The three Immanuel prophecies are unique to the prophet Isaiah and are found in his Messianic Oracle, chapters 6 to 12. These texts anticipate the coming of Immanuel, God with us, and the arrival of the ideal king, the Lord of history, who will rule with justice and bring peace. The first prophecy describes the birth of Immanuel: "***The virgin shall be with child***, ...The second prophecy describes his dominion: "***For a child is born to us, a son is given to us***; upon his shoulder dominion rests. The third prophecy describes the justice of his rule: "***A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse***, Justice shall be the band around his waist" **The Advent prophet.** Isaiah is the prophet of Advent, and excerpts from his book are the most-used texts for the first readings of the Masses leading up to Christmas.

### John the Baptist

Jesus said that John the Baptist is the greatest of all prophets: "there is none greater than John" (Mt 11:11a). John the Baptist prepared the people for the Messiah who was about to arrive, and when Jesus finally did appear, As Jesus approached John pointed to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" (Jn 1:29,36).

The Baptist had a miraculous birth, His mother Elizabeth was elderly, and barren, yet the archangel Gabriel appeared to her husband Zechariah, a priest in the Temple in Jerusalem, and announced that she would conceive, and so she did. John was filled with the Holy Spirit even while he was in his mother's womb (Lk 1:15), and he was chosen by God to be "the forerunner," to continue the ministry of Elijah, the Old Testament prophet who was to reappear to announce the Messiah (Mal 3:23). Like Elijah he wore a camel hair coat.

John made an impact because there had been no true prophet in Israel for centuries. Crowds gathered in great numbers out into the desert, a traditional place of encounter with God, to hear John preach and prophesy

John cried out, "Prepare the way of the Lord" (Mk 1:3). This is the heart of the Advent message. We respond by preparing for the incarnation by removing all that hinders us (sins) from receiving Jesus

John also called us to repent and baptized with a water preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins (Mk 1:4). So as to be ready to receive the Lamb of God when he comes. And it falls to him to proclaim him by that title. The Baptist kept Jesus first above all things (Jn 3:30), and so should we!

### Mary

#### Mary as Model for Advent

– *Meditation by Father Bertrand Buby, S.M.*

I like to think about Mary, my spiritual mother, during this Advent season. She is the one who became the mother of Jesus and brought the first Advent of the Christ into our history. She is the active agent cooperating with God in the plan of salvation history.

As we prepare for the event of Jesus' Birth at Christmas, we are more interested in participating in his mysteries through prayer and the liturgy, namely, the paschal mysteries. In the spirit of Mary we are more interested in participation than in a commemoration of a past event. That moment is gone, but our faith has brought about a birthday of Christ each day during Advent and the rest of the year through the mysteries of our faith, especially the Paschal Mystery of Jesus.

We turn to Mary who is the person who did this for the first time. She was born in the soil of Judaism and listened to the words of Isaiah, our leading Advent prophet. She probably was pondering over some of the same passages that we do during this season. She full-heartedly agreed with her YES to God and thus gave birth to the baby Jesus, first through her faith, then through her flesh.

She will continue to pray and ponder over this event in her heart while participating as a faithful disciple of Jesus in all the events of his life from conception, to birth, to early years and ministry and then to his death upon the Cross. She is a pilgrim with him on his trips to Jerusalem including his last memorable and fateful one. Yes, Mary is a great model for this season of Advent. Blessed is she who believed that the word of the Lord would be accomplished in her. Amen.

**FAITHFUL WAITING**

**AWAKE AND ALERT**

**HUMBLE RESOLVE**

**REPENTANCE**

**READINESS**

**JOURNEY**

**ENCOUNTER**

**PARTICIPATION**

**INTIMACY**

**REJOICE**

**GRACE**

**INCARNATION**

**PAROUSIA**