

**Sunday, December 3, 2023**  
**First Sunday of Advent**

**Prayer for the Morning**

*Christ is our Savior: let us give him praise and thanks.*

**Glory to the Father...Amen. Alleluia**

**Hymn** **Meter: CMD**

The Lord will come and not be slow,  
His footsteps cannot err;  
Before him righteousness shall go,  
His royal harbinger.  
Truth from the earth, like to a flower,  
Shall bud and blossom then;  
And justice, from her heav'nly bower,  
Look down on mortal men.  
Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might,  
This wicked earth redress;  
For thou art he who shalt by right  
The nations all possess.  
The nations all whom thou hast made  
Shall come, and all shall frame  
To bow them low before thee, Lord,  
And glorify thy name.  
For great thou art, and wonders great  
By thy strong hand are done:  
Thou in thine everlasting seat  
Remainest God alone.

**Canticle** **Tobit 13:1-6**

*Since the days of your fathers you have turned aside/  
from my statutes, and have not kept them./ Return to  
me, and I will return to you./ says the Lord of hosts.  
(Mal 3:7)*

*Although we know that Christ has not in fact left us  
since the Resurrection, we often experience his  
absence from a world that has not yet fully owned  
him and from lives not yet fully free from the hold of  
sin. During Advent, we pray for his promised return  
in the fullness of salvation, as the sun, never absent  
from the universe, returns at dawn after the long  
hours of night.*

Blessed be God who lives forever,  
because his kingdom lasts for all ages.  
For he scourges and then has mercy;  
he casts down to the depths of the netherworld,  
and he brings up from the great abyss.  
No one can escape his hand.  
Praise him, you Israelites, before the Gentiles,  
for though he has scattered you among them,

he has shown you his greatness even there.  
Exalt him before every living being,  
because he is the Lord our God,  
our Father and God forever.  
He scourged you for your iniquities,  
but will again have mercy on you all.  
He will gather you from all the Gentiles  
among whom you have been scattered.  
When you turn back to him with all your heart,  
to do what is right before him,  
then he will turn back to you,  
and no longer hide his face from you.  
Glory to the Father

**Word of God** **Zechariah 8:3**

Thus says the Lord:/ I will return to Zion,/ and I will  
dwell within Jerusalem;/ Jerusalem shall be called  
the faithful city,/ and the mountain of the Lord of  
hosts,/ the holy mountain.

Glory in his holy name;/ rejoice, O hearts that seek  
the Lord! (1 Chr 16:10)

**Canticle of Zechariah**

*How long, O Lord? I cry for help! (Hb 1:2a)*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has  
come to his people and set them free. He has  
raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house  
of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that  
he would save us from our enemies, from the  
hands of all who hate us. He promised to show  
mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy  
covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free  
to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in  
his sight all the days of our life. You, my child,  
shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for  
you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to  
give his people knowledge of salvation by the  
forgiveness of their sins. In the tender  
compassion of our God the dawn from on high  
shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell  
in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide  
our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father...

## Intercessions

As servants awaiting the Master's return, we pray:

**R/** Come, Lord, and save us!

From the emptiness when we do not recognize your presence: **R/**

From the silence in which we do not hear your voice: **R/**

From the darkness in which we do not see your light: **R/** **Personal intentions**

Our Father....

*Lord Jesus Christ, you are with us always, even to the end of the world, yet we do not always know your presence. Free us from whatever hinders you from taking full possession of our inner house and our outer world by the power of your Spirit, you who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen*

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**Reading 1** **Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7**

You, Lord, are our father,/ our redeemer you are named forever./ Why do you let us wander, O Lord, from your ways,/ and harden our hearts so that we fear you not?/ Return for the sake of your servants,/ the tribes of your heritage./ 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./ No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you/ doing such deeds for those who wait for him./ Would that you might meet us doing right,/ that we were mindful of you in our ways!/ Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful;/ all of us have become like unclean people,/ all our good deeds are like polluted rags;/ we have all withered like leaves,/ and our guilt carries us away like the wind./ There is none who calls upon your name,/ who rouses himself to cling to you;/ for you have hidden your face from us/ and have delivered us

up to our guilt./ Yet, O Lord, you are our father;/ we are the clay and you the potter;/ we are all the work of your hands.

**Reading 2** **1Corinthians 1:3-9**

Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Gospel** **Mark 13:33-37**

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. 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. 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. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'".

### **Men of St. Joseph Prayer**

St. Joseph, help me to be like you. Help me to be obedient to the teachings of the Church and faithful to God's commands. Help me to patiently endure my cross each day. Let me be a model of holiness and a pillar of virtue. I solemnly promise to embrace God's will and I accept the challenge to work tirelessly for my family's salvation. Be my guide and companion on this journey. St. Joseph, terror of demons, pray for us!

*Prayer for the Morning text used with permission of Magnificat.*