

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE 18.12.2020
ARCHDIOCESE OF KUALA LUMPUR

OPENING HYMN: O COME DIVINE MESSIAH

O come, Divine Messiah,
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph,
And sadness flee away.

Refrain:

Sweet Saviour, haste! Come, come to earth.
Dispel the night and show Thy face,
And bid us hail the dawn of grace.
O come, Divine Messiah,
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph,
And sadness flee away.

2 O Thou whom nations sighed for,
Whom priest and prophet long foretold,
Wilt break the captive fetters,
Redeem the long-lost fold.

3 O come in peace and meekness,
And lowly will Thy cradle be:
All clothed in human weakness
We shall Thy God-head see.

GREETINGS

ARCHBISHOP: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

ARCHBISHOP: Peace be with you.

ALL: And with your spirit.

INTRODUCTION

My brothers and sisters, Advent is a time of preparation, when we make ready to celebrate the mystery of our Lord's coming as man, the beginning of our redemption. Advent also moves us to look forward with renewed hope to the second coming of Christ, when God's plan of salvation will be brought to fulfilment.

We are reminded too of our Lord's coming to each one of us at the hour of death. We must make sure that he will find us prepared for his coming, as the gospel tells us: "Blessed are those servants who are found awake when the Lord comes," (Luke 12:37). This service of penance is meant to make us ready in mind and heart for the coming of Christ, which we are soon to celebrate in the Mass of Christmas.

ARCHBISHOP: My brothers and sisters, we look forward to celebrating the mystery Christ's coming on the feast of Christmas. Let us pray that when he comes he may find us awake and ready to receive him.

All pray in silence for a brief period

Lord our God,
maker of the heavens,
as we look forward to the coming of our Redeemer
grant us the forgiveness of our sins.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

56:1-3, 6-8

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Blessed is the man who does this, and the son of man who clings to it, observing the Sabbath, not profaning it, and keeping his hand from every evil deed. Let no foreigner who has attached himself to the Lord say, 'The Lord will surely exclude me from his people.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants - all who observe the Sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant - these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples.

It is Lord God who speaks, who gathers the outcasts of Israel: there are others I will gather besides those already gathered.

The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 71(72):1-2,7-8,12-13,17

In his days justice shall flourish, and peace till the moon fails.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish, and peace till the moon fails.

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds.

In his days justice shall flourish, and peace till the moon fails.

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor.

In his days justice shall flourish, and peace till the moon fails.

May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name.

In his days justice shall flourish, and peace till the moon fails.

Second reading

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

3:12-4:2

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in

holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

19:1-10

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance: he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man. He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for the crowd. So, he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and spoke to him: 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.' And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully. They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house' they said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount.' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

Examination of Conscience

(After the homily, a guided examination of conscience takes place followed by a period of silence so that each person may personally examine his conscience and articulate

in prayer the request to receive forgiveness. At the end of the examination of conscience, pray the Act of Sorrow.)

ARCHBISHOP: Christ our Lord came to call sinners into his Father's kingdom. Let us now make an act of sorrow in our hearts and resolve to avoid sin in the future.

After a brief period of silence, all say together:

All: I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

And striking their breast they say:

through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;

Then they continue:

therefore, I ask blessed Mary ever-virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

INTERCESSIONS

ARCHBISHOP: God gave us his Son for our sins and raise him up to make us holy. Let us humbly pray to the Father.

R: Lord, have mercy on your people.

1. Cleanse and renew your Church, Lord, may it grow in strength as a witness to you.

R: Lord, have mercy on your people.

2. Give us pardon for our sins, and reconciliation with your Church.

R: Lord, have mercy on your people.

3. When we stray from you, guide us back into the way of holiness, love and peace.

R: Lord, have mercy on your people.

4. In your mercy clothe us in the wedding garment of grace and welcome us to your table.

R: Lord, have mercy on your people.

5. Touch the hearts of those who have abandoned you through sin and scandal, - call them back to you and keep them faithful in your love.

R: Lord, have mercy on your people.

6. May we show forth in our lives the sufferings of your Son, - you raised us up to life when you raised him from the dead.

R: Lord, have mercy on your people.

7. Restore us, Lord, to your favour and give us joy in your presence, - may our glory be to serve you with all our hearts.

R: Lord, have mercy on your people.

OUR FATHER

ARCHBISHOP: Let us now call upon God our Father in the words that Jesus gave us, and ask him to forgive us our sins:

All: Our Father.....

After the Our Father, in place of the individual confession, the faithful are invited to make an Act of Perfect Contrition.

How is an act of perfect contrition done?

- 1. Being sorry out of love for God has often been described as having a desire to be reunited to God because of who he is- because of God's perfect love for us, and because of sorrow for having offended God by sin. It means wanting to live in unity with God, and to put aside the sins that stand in the way.*
- 2. Must make a firm commitment to go to confession when that becomes possible.*

An act of perfect contrition is not a replacement for the sacrament of penance. The sacrament of penance remains the sole, ordinary means for the forgiveness of mortal sins after baptism.

ACT OF CONTRITION

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven, and the pains of hell; but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

ARCHBISHOP: Let us pray:

Almighty and eternal God,
You sent your only-begotten Son
to reconcile the world to yourself.
Lift from our hearts
the oppressive gloom of sin,
so that we may celebrate
the approaching dawn of Christ's birth
with fitting joy.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

All: Thanks be to God.

ARCHBISHOP: May the Lord guide your hearts in the way of his love and fill you with Christ-like patience.

All: Amen.

ARCHBISHOP: May he give you strength to walk in newness of life and to please him in all things.

All: Amen.

ARCHBISHOP: May almighty God bless you,

the Father, and the Son, + and the
Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

ARCHBISHOP: The Lord has freed you from your sins.
Go in peace.

All: Thanks be to God.