

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.**

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;**

[R]

[R]

[R]



focus on sunday

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.**



**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

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.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

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

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.



'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.