

Monday-Saturday, 6th-11th December 2021

Week 2 of Advent - Year C

MONDAY

Memorial of St Lucy

(Alternate Readings used for this Memorial)



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Behold, now she follows the Lamb who was crucified for us, powerful in virginity, modesty her offering, a sacrifice on the altar of chastity.

READING: 2 Corinthians 10:17-11:2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

If anyone wants to boast, let him boast of the Lord. It is not the man who commends himself that can be accepted, but the man who is commended by the Lord. I only wish you were able to tolerate a little foolishness from me. But of course: you are tolerant towards me. You see, the jealousy that I feel for you is God's own jealousy: I arranged for you to marry Christ so that I might give you away as a chaste virgin to this one husband.

PSALM: Into your hands, O Lord, I entrust my spirit.

ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!

This is the wise bridesmaid, whom the Lord found waiting; at his coming she went in with him to the wedding feast. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples:

'The kingdom of heaven will be like this:

Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps.

The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him."

At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Lamb who is at the centre of the throne will lead them to the springs of the waters of life.

TUESDAY

Memorial of St John of the Cross

(Alternative Readings used for this Memorial)



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: May I never boast, except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

READING: 2 Corinthians 2:1-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ.

Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belonged to

philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit.

And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

But we still have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what the scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

PSALM: The mouths of the just murmur wisdom.

ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me, says the Lord.

WEDNESDAY

Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: The Lord will come and he will not delay. He will illumine what is hidden in darkness and reveal himself to all the nations.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:6-8. 18. 21-26

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Apart from me, all is nothing.

I am the Lord, unrivalled, I form the light and create the dark. I make good fortune and create calamity, it is I, the Lord, who do all this.

Send victory like a dew, you heavens, and let the clouds rain it down. Let the earth open for salvation to spring up. Let deliverance, too, bud forth which I, the Lord, shall create. Yes, thus says the Lord, creator of the heavens, who is God, who formed the earth and made it, who set it firm, created it no chaos, but a place to be lived in:

'I am the Lord, unrivalled, there is no other god besides me, a God of integrity and a saviour; there is none apart from me. Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth, for I am God unrivalled.

'By my own self I swear it; what comes from my mouth is truth, a word irrevocable; before me every knee shall bend, by me every tongue shall swear, saying, "From the Lord alone come victory and strength." To him shall come, ashamed, all who raged against him. Victorious and glorious through the Lord shall be all the descendants of Israel.'

PSALM: Let the clouds rain down the Just One, and the earth bring forth a Saviour.

ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!

Raise your voice and tell the Good News: the Lord our God comes in strength. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Luke 7: 19-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

John, summoning two of his disciples, sent them to the Lord to ask, 'Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?' When the men reached Jesus they said, 'John the Baptist has sent us to you, to ask, "Are you the one who is to come or have we to wait for someone else?"' 'It was just then that he cured many people of disease and afflictions and of evil spirits, and gave the gift of sight to many who were blind. Then he gave the messengers their answer, 'Go back and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind can see again, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, the Good News is proclaimed to the poor and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold, our Lord will come with power and will enlighten the eyes of his servants.

THURSDAY

Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: You, O Lord, are close, and all your ways are truth. From of old I have known of your decrees, for you are eternal.

READING: *Isaiah 54:1-10*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Shout for joy, you barren women who bore no children!

Break into cries of joy and gladness, you who were never in labour!

For the sons of the forsaken one are more in number than the sons of the wedded wife, says the Lord.

Widen the space of your tent, stretch out your hangings freely, lengthen your ropes, make your pegs firm; for you will burst out to right and left.

Your race will take possession of the nations, and people the abandoned cities.

Do not be afraid, you will not be out to shame, do not be dismayed, you will not be disgraced;

for you will forget the shame of your youth

and no longer remember the curse of your widowhood.

For now your creator will be your husband, his name, the Lord of hosts;

your redeemer will be the Holy One of Israel, he is called the God of the whole earth.

Yes, like a forsaken wife, distressed in spirit, the Lord calls you back.

Does a man cast off the wife of his youth?

Says your God.

I did forsake you for a brief moment, but with great love will I take you back.

In excess of anger, for a moment I hid my face from you.

But with everlasting love I have taken pity on you, says the Lord, your redeemer.

I am now as I was in the days of Noah when I swore that Noah's waters should never flood the world again.

So now I swear concerning my anger with you and the threats I made against you;

for the mountains may depart, the hills be shaken, but my love for you will never leave you and my covenant of peace with you will never be shaken, says the Lord who takes pity on you.

PSALM: I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: *Luke 7:24-30*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

When John's messengers had gone Jesus began to talk to the people about John, 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? Oh no, those who go in for fine clothes and live luxuriously are to be found at court! Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: See, I am going to send my messenger before you. I tell you, of all the children born of woman, there is no greater than John: yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he is. All the people who heard him, and the tax collectors too, acknowledged God's plan by accepting baptism from John; but by refusing baptism from him the Pharisees and the lawyers had thwarted what God had in mind for them.'

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Let us live justly and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of the glory of our great God.

FRIDAY

Mass of the Day

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Rejoice, O heavens, and exult, O earth, for our Lord will come to show mercy to his poor.

READING: *Genesis 49:2. 8-10*

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Jacob called his sons and said, 'Gather round, sons of Jacob, and listen; listen to Israel your father.

Judah, your brothers shall praise you: you grip your enemies by the neck, your father's sons shall do you homage.

Judah is a lion cub,

you climb back, my son, from your kill; like a lion he crouches and lies down, or a lioness: who dare rouse him?

The sceptre shall not pass from Judah, nor the mace from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs,

to whom the peoples shall render obedience.'

PSALM: Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!

Come, Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: teach us to walk in the paths of knowledge. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:1-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

A genealogy of Jesus Christ, son of David, son of Abraham:

Abraham was the father of Isaac,
 Isaac the father of Jacob,
 Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,
 Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah, Tamar
 being their mother,
 Perez was the father of Hezron,
 Hezron the father of Ram,
 Ram was the father of Amminadab,
 Amminadab was the father of Nahshon,
 Nahshon the father of Salmon,
 Salmon was the father of Boaz, Rahab being his
 mother,
 Boaz was the father of Obed, Ruth being his
 mother,
 Obed was the father of Jesse;
 and Jesse was the father of King David.
 David was the father of Solomon, whose mother
 had been Uriah's wife,
 Solomon was the father of Rehoboam,
 Rehoboam the father of Abijah,
 Abijah the father of Asa,
 Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat,
 Jehoshaphat the father of Joram,
 Joram the father of Azariah,
 Azariah was the father of Jotham,
 Jotham the father of Ahaz,
 Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,
 Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh,
 Manasseh the father of Amon,
 Amon the father of Josiah;
 and Josiah was the father of Jechoniah and his
 brothers.
 Then the deportation to Babylon took place.
 After the deportation to Babylon:
 Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel,
 Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,
 Zerubbabel was the father of Abiud,
 Abiud the father of Eliakim,
 Eliakim the father of Azor,
 Azor was the father of Zadok,
 Zadok the father of Achim,
 Achim the father of Eliud,
 Eliud was the father of Eleazar,
 Eleazar the father of Matthan,
 Matthan the father of Jacob;
 and Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of
 Mary; of her was born Jesus who is called Christ.
 The sum of generations is therefore: fourteen from
 Abraham to David; fourteen from David to the
 Babylonian deportation; and fourteen from the
 Babylonian deportation to Christ.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold, the Desired of
 all the nations will come, and the house of the
 Lord will be filled with glory.**

SATURDAY

Mass of the Day

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Christ our King is coming,
 he is the Lamb foretold by John.**

READING: Jeremiah 23:5-8

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

‘See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who
 speaks – when I will raise a virtuous Branch for
 David, who will reign as true king and be wise,
 practising honesty and integrity in the land.

In his days Judah will be saved and Israel dwell in
 confidence. And this is the name he will be called:

The Lord-our-integrity.

‘So, then, the days are coming – it is the Lord who
 speaks – when people will no longer say, “As the
 Lord lives who brought the sons of Israel out of the
 Land of Egypt!” but, “As the Lord lives who led back
 and brought home the descendants of the House
 of Israel out of the land of the North and from all
 the countries to which he had dispersed them, to
 live on their own soil.”’

**PSALM: Justice shall flourish in his time, and
 fullness of peace for ever.**

ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia!

**Come, Leader of ancient Israel, giver of the Law to
 Moses on Sinai: rescue us with your mighty
 power! Alleluia!**

GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His
 mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before
 they came to live together she was found to be
 with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband
 Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to
 spare her publicity, decided to divorce her
 informally. He had made up his mind to do this
 when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a
 dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be
 afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because
 she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit.
 She will give birth to a son and you must name him
 Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his
 people from their sins.’ Now all this took place to
 fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the
 prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to
 a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name
 which means ‘God-is-with-us’. When Joseph woke
 up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him
 to do: he took his wife to his home.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON: His name will be called
 Emmanuel, which means God-with-us.**



Advent Reflection:

As we approach Christmas, it's important that we
 spiritually prepare ourselves. You are invited to take
 part in the last evening of the advent preparation
 program on:

Friday 17th December -7.00pm: St. Kevin's Church