



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Our Lord portrays himself as the Master who goes away on a journey. It is certain that he will return, even if no-one in his household knows exactly when. That is *our* situation. What do we do in anticipation?

Our Lord, the Master, indicates we have a choice. We can close our eyes and enter into the world of dreams where we create our own fantasy futures, or we can stay awake and alert to do what Our Lord wants us to do: 'He left his *servants* in charge, giving to each his work.'

You and me – his servants – have a particular role or work in and for this phase of human history. A deep down intuition, prompted by the Holy Spirit, indicates what this is. We must be true to this assignment.

We could take a moment to pray that, when the Lord returns, we may hear: 'Come, good and *faithful* servant, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.'

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Gospel Acclamation Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 13:33-37

Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.

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!'

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The Living Word

First Sunday of Advent, Year B

29 November 2020

First Reading Is 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8

Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down.

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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4

**R. Lord, make us turn to you, let us see
your face 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 Cor 1:3-9

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.