

The Living Word

First Sunday of Advent, Year B

3 December 2023

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.

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 known 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!'



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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St Francis Xavier was born in Spain in 1506 and studied at the University of Paris. He met St Ignatius of Loyola and joined his group of disciples who would found a new religious order; the Jesuits. Preaching in foreign missions became a fundamental aim of the Jesuits and in 1541, he sailed to Goa in India. He worked and lived with the poor people in every place he visited; from India and Ceylon to Japan and the Malay peninsula. During his ten years as a missionary, he is believed to have converted many thousands to Christianity. He is recognised as the patron saint of foreign missions.



Wordsearch

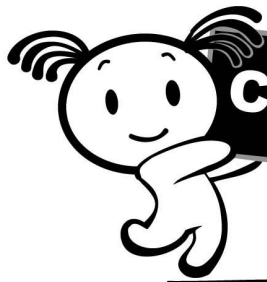
Try to find these words:

dawn
everything
guard
house

know
master
midnight
ready

servants
sleep
time
watchmen

R	F	B	V	A	M	E	V	E	R	Y	T	H	I	N	G	S
H	F	S	G	B	H	I	V	I	T	C	Z	B	E	G	E	J
M	Y	X	M	N	H	P	G	R	S	S	D	J	S	R	M	L
K	B	C	P	F	Y	S	L	E	E	P	Z	X	V	F	Z	E
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V	P	J	N	X	O	N	S	H	Q	Z	P	V	U	U	F	W
P	M	D	B	G	M	S	A	E	Q	G	V	V	N	X	O	R
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F	J	D	O	U	R	G	K	M	S	I	W	K	O	Z	E	L
G	A	M	G	O	A	P	D	T	D	C	G	X	L	C	Y	J
O	U	K	H	T	H	K	I	A	U	V	K	T	J	Q	H	J
H	W	A	T	C	H	M	E	N	W	L	Z	Y	H	T	A	V
R	N	J	A	J	E	F	Y	X	G	N	P	K	V	P	F	L
R	R	R	E	T	S	A	M	Q	C	Z	V	G	H	P	R	X



Christmas

Rearrange the following words to complete the sentence below

Jesus

prepare

season



arrival

Advent

is the

when

we

for the

of

at