

November 29

1st Sunday of Advent



First Reading (Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7)

You, LORD, are our father,
our **redeemer** you are named forever.
Why do you let us wander, O LORD, from your ways,
and harden our hearts so that we fear you not?
Return for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your heritage.
Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
with the mountains quaking before you,
while you wrought awesome deeds we could not hope for,
such as they had not heard of from of old.
No ear has ever heard, no eye ever seen, any God but you
doing such deeds for those who wait for him.
Would that you might meet us doing right,
that we were mindful of you in our ways!
Behold, you are angry, and we are sinful;
all of us have become like unclean people,
all our good deeds are like polluted rags;
we have all withered like leaves,
and our guilt carries us away like the wind.
There is none who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to cling to you;
for you have **hidden your face** from us
and have delivered us up to our guilt.
Yet, O LORD, you are our father;
we are the clay and you the potter:
we are all the work of your hands.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19)

**R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face
and we shall be saved.**

O shepherd of Israel, hearken,
from your throne upon the **cherubim**, shine forth.
Rouse your power,
and come to save us. R.

Once again, O LORD of hosts,
look down from heaven, and see;
take care of this vine,
and protect what your right hand has planted,
the son of man whom you yourself made strong. R.

May your help be with the man of your right hand,
with the son of man whom you yourself made strong.
Then we will no more withdraw from you;
give us new life, and we will call upon your name. R.

Second Reading (1 Corinthians 1:3-9)

Brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus, that in him you were enriched in every way, with all discourse and all knowledge, as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will keep you firm to the end, irreproachable on **the day of our Lord Jesus Christ**. God is faithful, and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel (Mark 13:33-37)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



Key Words

With the season of **Advent**, which means “coming,” we begin a new liturgical year. Advent lasts four weeks and during this time the liturgical color is violet or purple. Purple is the color of waiting; it reminds us to prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas and his return at the end of time.

To redeem is to buy something back or to pay to free someone. God is called our **redeemer** because God freed Israel from slavery in Egypt. Christ is our Redeemer, for by his resurrection he freed us from the power of death.

When the Bible says that God has **hidden his face**, it means that we think God has turned away or is angry. But we know that God is always near and we are the ones who have turned our backs to God.

Cherubim (the plural of cherub) are a type of angel. In the Bible they are the ones who watch over the entrance to the Garden of Eden. To show that God is above everything, the psalmist says that God’s throne is above the cherubim.

When Saint Paul refers to **the day of our Lord Jesus Christ**, he is speaking about the end of the world—the day human history will end and we will see God face to face.

The **Gospel of Mark** is the earliest and the shortest of the four gospels. The other gospels were written by Matthew, Luke, and John. This year, most of the gospel readings will come from Mark.

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