

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT — NOVEMBER 29, 2020

First Reading — Isaiah 63:16-17, 19; 64:1-8

¹⁶ For thou art our Father, though Abraham does not know us and Israel does not acknowledge us; thou, OBLORD, art our Father, our Redeemer from of old is thy name. ¹⁷ O LORD, why dost thou make us err from thy ways and harden our heart, so that we fear thee not? Return for the sake of thy servants, the tribes of thy heritage....

¹⁹ We have become like those over whom thou hast never ruled, like those who are not called by thy name. ^{64:1} O that thou wouldst rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at thy presence — ² as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil --to make thy name known to thy adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at thy presence! ³ When thou didst terrible things which we looked not for, thou camest down, the mountains quaked at thy presence. ⁴ From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides thee, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵ Thou meetest him that joyfully works righteousness, those that remember thee in thy ways. Behold, thou wast angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? ⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷ There is no one that calls upon thy name, that bestirs himself to take hold of thee; for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast delivered us into the hand of our iniquities. ⁸ Yet, O LORD, thou art our Father; we are the clay, and thou art our potter; we are all the work of thy hand.

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

R. (4) 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. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

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

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

Second Reading — 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I give thanks to God always for you because of the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ that in every way you were enriched in him with all speech and all knowledge— ⁶ even as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ; ⁸ who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gospel Reading — Mark 13:33-37

³³ Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his

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servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Watch therefore—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning— ³⁶ lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Watch.”

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INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

INVITATION TO REFLECT

INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

First Reading —

1. With what part of Isaiah's prayer of longing do you most identify?

Second Reading —

2. Read this passage inserting your name where the pronoun "you" appears. How does this affect your view of yourself?
3. What does it mean to you to be called into the "fellowship of his Son"?

Gospel Reading —

4. How can this passage be applied to the Advent Season?
5. What are the practical ramifications of "Take heed, watch, and pray"?
6. How can the lessons of Christ's first advent be applied to his second coming (advent)?

INVITATION TO ACT

Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.

CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another's openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.