



Diocese of
OWENSBORO

LITURGY OF THE WORD FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HYMN

O Lord of Light

**O Lord of light, who made the stars, O Dawn by whom we see the way,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, make haste to listen as we pray!**

**In lowliness you came on earth to rescue us from Satan's snares:
O wondrous love that healed our wounds by taking on our mortal cares!**

INTRODUCTION

All sign themselves with the sign of the cross saying, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Leader: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and home with peace.
Blessed be God for ever.

All respond: Blessed be God for ever.

The Gloria is not sung during Advent.

Leader: Let us pray,

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ
with righteous deeds at his coming,
so that, gathered at his right hand,
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

READINGS

It is encouraged that someone other than the leader should proclaim the readings of the day from a Bible. Otherwise, daily readings may be found at uscgb.org/bible/readings, and audio recordings of the daily readings may be found at uscgb.org/bible/readings-audio.cfm.

First reading: Isaiah 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7

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

Refrain (all together): **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.

Refrain (all together): **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.

Refrain (all together): **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.

Refrain (all together): **Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel (All stand for the reading of the Gospel. A layperson omits the greeting, “The Lord be with you” and proceeds to “A reading from the holy Gospel According to”): Mark 13:33-37

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

This week we have a reflection from Fr. Freddie Byrd, pastor of St. Ann Parish in Morganfield:

Simulation drills are important. In fact, they are so important that they may be the difference between life and death. Kids in school know the sound of a fire alarm. They know that when they hear it what they are supposed to do and how they are supposed to react. These drills keep them alert just in case there is a great fire in their building.

Hospitals also have simulation drills in the case of a disaster. Doctors, nurses and staff respond to the call to advance the needs of many who will be coming through their doors. These warriors must be ready to face the trauma that life and death is in their hands.

There are also rescue teams in coal mines. These miners drill not only for competition with other teams, but to prepare themselves in case a tragedy for life lurks in their balance.

The season of Advent is also a simulation time. It is a time for us to get ready to see Jesus when the Lord comes again. We hear these words from St. Mark's Gospel: "Be ready! Watch! Stay Alert! Don't let the coming of Christ catch you off guard!"

What do you think is the most dangerous period of your life? When are we the most vulnerable? When are we in the most danger?

The most dangerous period of our lives is tomorrow. It is when we start putting off until tomorrow what we should be doing today. Procrastination is the great sin of today. We begin to believe that there is plenty of time to get everything done tomorrow. We begin to take Mother Time for granted and fail to respect her.

Advent demands that we ask the question: Are you ready for the Second Coming of Christ? If you were 100% sure Christ would come at the end of the week, what would you do? Pray more; go to Confession; be nice to your Momma; make peace with your brother or sister; smile; make sure God knows that you love him.

Why wait?! Shouldn't we be doing these things and many more every day? The challenge of these next four weeks of Advent is not about shopping, baking cookies, wrapping gifts, trees or lights. These next four weeks are simulation drills. Our life or our death is in our own hands.

Additionally, you can also find video reflections from the USCCB on the readings here:
<http://www.usccb.org/bible/reflections/>.

Observe a period of silence for reflection on the Word of God. You may want to ask the following questions:

What word or phrase is stirring in your heart?
How can you apply this message to your daily life?

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Let us give glory to the great God, presenting our needs with trust and confidence.

You or members of your family can be invited to speak out their intercessions, to which all reply, "Lord, hear our prayer." It would be good to include a prayer for the end of the coronavirus pandemic and a return to public Sunday Eucharist.

Leader: God of infinite mercy, hear the prayers of your people — who give praise for all the good things that come from you, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Response: Amen.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment

receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

ACT OF THANKSGIVING

Make a prayer of thanksgiving. This can be your own personal prayer of thanksgiving, a canticle of praise from scripture, or you may choose one of the following Psalms: Psalm 100; Psalm 113; Psalm 118:1-4, 19-29; Psalm 136; Psalm 150

CONCLUDING RITE

In solidarity with our diocese, here you could include Pope Francis' prayer to Mary for protection against the coronavirus found at the beginning of the *Diocese of Owensboro Prayer Companion*.

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All sign themselves with the cross.

Response: Amen

As an option here, you could add "Let us offer each other the sign of peace," extending a sign of Christ's peace to your loved ones by way of a hug, kiss, or whatever would be most appropriate for your situation.

HYMN

O Lord of Light

**To God the Father and the Son for ages of eternal days,
Together with the Spirit, be all glory, honor, might and praise!**

Melvin Farrell, SS, 1930-1986
© 1962, WLP. Used with permission under OneLicense.net A-702420.

Excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America*, second typical edition © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner.