# “The Coming of the King”

Today, is the first Sunday of Advent and we begin a new liturgical cycle, year C. Advent is the time we prepare for a much bigger event; it is a time we reflect more deeply about the coming of our Lord as a baby into our world. It is a time we thing about how God fulfilled the promise He made to David that from his heritage would come the Messiah who would save the world from the power of sin and death. It is a period we ask the King of kings and Lord of lords to come into our lives, into our world, and renew the face of the earth. Advent is a time for penance and prayer for the coming feast of Christmas. It is a time we look forward to His second coming.

Advent is a period of about 4 weeks, which signifies Our Lord’s first coming when He took up human flesh in the womb of a woman, He assumed the lowliness of human flesh. If the Son of God had not come without taken up our flesh, those who saw Him would have died on seeing Him in His glory. Just imagine what would have happened if Peter, James and John had not known Him in the flesh before the transfiguration! My guess is, they would have died of freight instead of just fainting.

By coming in the flesh, He fulfilled the design His Father formed long ago before the beginning of time. God came in the flesh so that He could teach us how to get to the Father. And by laying down His life for us, the way to eternal salvation has been opened to those who love Him, who believe in Him, and act on His words, by keeping His commandments and decrees.

Why did our Lord come the first time? He came because He is madly in love with us. He wants to protect us from the evil one like a mother hen would protect her chicks from danger. God loves us and wants to take up residence in our hearts and soul. He wants us to think about and do heavenly things that would get us into heaven and not earthly things that would separate us from Him and His Father.

Jesus wants to fill our hearts with His love. He want to feel our hearts with His Holy Spirit. He wants us to know that without God, we will be nothing. He wants us to sometimes sacrifice charity for prayer because without God, we will be too poor in spirit to help the poor. Scripture tells us that Jesus took off sometimes to pray all night to His Father. However, He only asked Peter, James and John to pray with Him for one hour during His very trying moment in the garden.

Secondly, Advent is also a period when we heighten our awareness in anticipation of Jesus Christ’s second coming. It is a time when Jesus Christ will come in mighty power, glory, and majesty. Advent is a period when we should ask ourselves, are we ready to run forth to meet Him with righteous deeds? Are we ready to stand erect, holding our head high knowing through our love for Him, we will be assured of our sharing in His heavenly Kingdom?

Above, are similar messages we received from all our readings today. In our first reading, we heard God through Prophet Jeremiah renew His promise to king David that He would send a just Shoot, the Messiah to redeem us from the clutches of death. The Shoot would be a just and righteous King who will be our way, our life and our truth. He will be the “Lord of our justice” who would redirect humanity to God’s ways and not our ways. He would rule for ever and over His kingdom to His Father at the end of time.

That day of the Messiah would be the appointed time that God had established before the beginning of time. He made the promise first to Abraham that Abraham would be the father of many nations. Then He renewed the promise to Isaac and the Jacob. God has being faithful to the promises He made. His promise is that in the end, we will become His adopted children who would live with Him for eternity.

In our second reading, from 1st Thessalonians, God through St. Paul reminds the Thessalonians of the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He let them know that Jesus would be coming with the holy ones. Paul exhorted them to love one another with the love of Christ which he has passed on to them. It is a love that is not self-serving but self-giving. It is the only love that pleases God who is love. He told them they are to die to self just as we who are the recipient of the same message should die to self. We should imitate Paul as he imitate Christ.

St. Paul told them and us that we need to nurture and cultivate the love passed on to us in good soil so that it would bear much fruit. Our love should be like a mustard seed that Paul and others planted in us that with God’s grace, would become like a great tree or bush that all peoples could see and take comfort in. Our love should not be for ourselves but to be given away to others. The saying is that the more we give love away, the more we would receive from Him who is the author of life and love.

In our Gospel reading, through St. Luke, God expanded on what would happen during the Messiah’s second coming. Then, there would be amazing and frightening signs in the sky, in the sun moon and stars. There will be frightening, thunderous, roaring, and mighty waves on the sea. Our faith tells us that Jesus will be there to help us through the awesome dark doors of death and lead us to His Father’s kingdom. It is after all these happenings that we will see the Messiah coming in the cloud with the holy ones.

Our Lord warns us that every living thing at the time would go through trials and tribulation. However, our faith tells us that the end of the world will be the final triumph of good over evil. It would be the time of destruction of powers opposing God and the eternal kingdom of God will be given as a reward to God’s faithful people and we will share fully through our own resurrection in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

As we come to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, let us give thanks to God for our faith and for the gifts He has given us especially the Body and Blood of our Redeemer His Son.