



First Sunday of Advent

A strong warning comes to us: "*Be prepared, because at the time you least think, the Son of Man comes.*" The arrival of the Lord is not something to fear, but something to be desired. It is an impatient love that comes to meet us, and in that precise moment of grace, we live. Only when someone knows himself loved and welcomed, he begins to give his best. Then can he begin humbly and quietly that task of preparation for the coming of the Lord. The images of Isaiah summon us: "from their swords they will forge plows, and their spears into pruners." What is expected of us is that we decide more vigorously to undertake the task of love that includes all other commandments and summarizes all possible preparations.

Second Sunday of Advent

When someone is able to look at another regardless of their appearances; when the poor and homeless find welcome and defense; when someone behaves with justice and loyalty, then the Kingdom of God is approaching.

Knowing it makes us want that change of life that John was talking about. It makes us want to come to Him to receive that baptism of Spirit that gives meaning to our life. It is true that, like John, we are not worthy to untie the strap of the Master's sandals. By reading his Gospel, we learn that what He seeks from us is not that we kneel or talk about our unworthiness. What He does is put people on their feet, gets them out of their prostration, and restores their faith in themselves.

In this manner, He kneels Himself to wash the dust off their feet to allow them to return to the path.



Immaculate Conception

In the scene of the Annunciation, Luke puts us in touch with Mary's feelings: "she was troubled to hear his greeting," but the angel said: "Do not fear, Mary, because you have found grace in the eyes of God ..." Do not fear, Mary, because in you, a girl from a lost village in Galilee, He has recognized the best features of her people: loyalty, humble obedience, unwavering faithfulness ... You are the believer, Abraham's true daughter, and the gaze of God leans toward you, envelops you in His tenderness and floods you with His grace.





Third Sunday of Advent

What does "see the beauty of our God" consist of? We can see it in the beauty of creation or in the wonders that the human being is capable of, made in His image and likeness. But Jesus points out what to Him is the sign that the beauty and goodness of God have touched our history, leaving a trace of healing, fulfillment and joy. Now we are responsible for prolonging that beauty. How can we be shocked that Jesus is the way he is? I think I have found the answer in the resistance I see in myself, and in many, to spend their lives in the "places below," where there are human beings living in the midst of darkness, illness, poverty or death. You made your signs on them because you moved there and they were your friends. Pull me to those places, Lord.



Fourth Sunday of Advent

John's mission is announced: he will go before Jesus preparing the ways of that mercy that comes with Him. It is very different from the expected, because John will refrain from wine, but He, from whom he announces, will drink it, and waste it without measure in a wedding.

Something of that drunkenness already appears in the joy of a woman waiting for a child. As a symphony that begins with the soft chords of an adage, the joy will grow until reaching its maximum intensity in the night in Bethlehem: Glory to God in heaven and peace on earth!