

December 3rd – Sue Gabert – Monday of the First Week of Advent

We begin this season in praise and thanksgiving for all that our God has given us. This is quite appropriate as this time of Advent of patient anticipation and waiting is about reflecting on our relationship with our loving God. Amid the hustle and bustle of preparing for Christmas with parties and shopping, we are also preparing ourselves to welcome our God into our hearts. We reflect on the past and celebrate the birth of Christ, we look to the future in holy anticipation of Christ's second coming, and we stay ever present to each moment becoming more and more aware of God's presence among us each day. Like the centurion in today's Gospel, we are all called to have faith and hope. As the Advent season begins, let us each consider how much faith and hope we feel by taking a moment to pause, to reflect on the three comings of Christ this holy season calls us to.

We must remember that Jesus is present and waiting, all we need to do is to ask. In the Gospel, the centurion replied, "I am not worthy," but did that matter to God? Did that block the Lord's generous spirit? All that Jesus seeks is an open heart. He patiently waits to be invited into our soul-filled yearnings, into our brokenness. Jesus came to heal us and to set us free. He enters into our lives willingly, with great love for us amid our brokenness.

When we sing and pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," during this season of Advent, do we remember with thanksgiving the freedom he brought us when he first came to us? Do we truly believe he will come again? Do we desire him in the here and now? Are our hearts open as he comes into our lives, our homes, our neighborhoods, our world? Do we recognize him in our midst? Do we truly believe that he will come at the end of time? Do we believe in what we pray? We must remember that it is because of God's great love for us that Christ came in history, that he will come again at the end of time, and through this tremendous love he waits patiently for us to invite him into our daily moments. We simply need to invite him, and he will come.

~ by Susan Gabert '91 Ed.D., Assistant Dean of Students/Director of Campus Ministry

Reading 1

Isaiah 2:1-5

This is what Isaiah, son of Amoz,
saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come,
The mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest mountain
and raised above the hills.
All nations shall stream toward it;
many peoples shall come and say:
"Come, let us climb the LORD's mountain,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
That he may instruct us in his ways,
and we may walk in his paths."
For from Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and impose terms on many peoples.
They shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
One nation shall not raise the sword against another,

nor shall they train for war again.

O house of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Responsorial Psalm

PS 122:1-2, 3-4B, 4CD-5, 6-7, 8-9

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced because they said to me,

"We will go up to the house of the LORD."

And now we have set foot
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Jerusalem, built as a city
with compact unity.

To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

According to the decree for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

In it are set up judgment seats,
seats for the house of David.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!

May those who love you prosper!

May peace be within your walls,
prosperity in your buildings.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Because of my relatives and friends

I will say, "Peace be within you!"

Because of the house of the LORD, our God,

I will pray for your good.

R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Gospel

Matthew 8:5-11

When Jesus entered Capernaum,

a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying,

"Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully."

He said to him, "I will come and cure him."

The centurion said in reply,

"Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof;
only say the word and my servant will be healed.

For I too am a man subject to authority,

with soldiers subject to me.

And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes;

and to another, 'Come here,' and he comes;

and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it."

When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him,

"Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith.

I say to you, many will come from the east and the west,

and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

at the banquet in the Kingdom of heaven."