

December 11th – Kristyn Demers – Tuesday of the Second Week of Advent

Christmas is a time of giving and Advent a time for preparation. Opening the daily chocolates from the Advent calendar and taking a paper from our Advent chains as we count down the days until Christmas may be fun, but it is also important to remember the true reason to be excited. It is not for the presents but rather for the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Shepherd. How can we prepare ourselves for the birth of Christ? First, remember that Jesus, as a good shepherd, will leave his ninety-nine other sheep to find the lost lamb. He is always willing to search for us and comfort us when we return to Him.

We can also prepare our minds and hearts for His coming. Forgiving others for their wrongdoings and asking for forgiveness for our own wrongdoings is important year-round, but especially during this season. When a new child is born into a family, people travel long distances to visit the baby. So too does the holy family wait for us to visit the baby Jesus. This Christmas, as you gather with family that you may not see often, I encourage you to invite Jesus into your celebration as well and to welcome the Precious Baby into your home.

Dear Jesus, bless all who receive this message this season. Allow them to feel Your warmth and love present in their lives. As they invite You into their homes this year, invite them into Your house. Welcome them as You always do. Grant them a happy Christmas and a successful, joyous New Year. May You show them the comfort You provide and may they remember that You, as the good Shepherd, will never let any of them stray too far.

Merry Christmas and God bless!

Reading 1

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, give comfort to my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her
that her service is at an end,
her guilt is expiated;
Indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:
In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!
Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill shall be made low;
The rugged land shall be made a plain,
the rough country, a broad valley.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

A voice says, "Cry out!"
I answer, "What shall I cry out?"
"All flesh is grass,
and all their glory like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower wilts,

when the breath of the LORD blows upon it.
So then, the people is the grass.
Though the grass withers and the flower wilts,
the word of our God stands forever."

Go up onto a high mountain,
Zion, herald of glad tidings;
Cry out at the top of your voice,
Jerusalem, herald of good news!
Fear not to cry out
and say to the cities of Judah:
Here is your God!
Here comes with power
the Lord GOD,
who rules by his strong arm;
Here is his reward with him,
his recompense before him.
Like a shepherd he feeds his flock;
in his arms he gathers the lambs,
Carrying them in his bosom,
and leading the ewes with care.

Responsorial Psalm

PS 96:1-2, 3 AND 10AC, 11-12, 13

R. (see Isaiah 40:10ab) The Lord our God comes with power.

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all you lands.

Sing to the LORD; bless his name;
announce his salvation, day after day.

R. The Lord our God comes with power.

Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

Say among the nations: The LORD is king;
he governs the peoples with equity.

R. The Lord our God comes with power.

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;
let the sea and what fills it resound;
let the plains be joyful and all that is in them!

Then let all the trees of the forest rejoice.

R. The Lord our God comes with power.

They shall exult before the LORD, for he comes;
for he comes to rule the earth.

He shall rule the world with justice
and the peoples with his constancy.

R. The Lord our God comes with power.

Gospel

Matthew 18:12-14

Jesus said to his disciples:

"What is your opinion?

If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray,
will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills
and go in search of the stray?

And if he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices more over it
than over the ninety-nine that did not stray.

In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father
that one of these little ones be lost."