

December 4th – Timothy Holmes – Tuesday of the First Week of Advent

How easy would our faith be if we could see Christ in the flesh as the disciples were able to? The Messiah, the *Christos* Himself, the culmination of the words of the prophets who proclaimed His coming. He who had come not to free the Jews from their captivity at the hands of the Romans, but to liberate their hearts that had become hardened by sin. Christ tells his disciples that their eyes are blessed, for they are able to see the fulfillment of God's promise through Him, they are able to hear the redeeming words that He speaks, professing that He had come to defeat death and restore life to humanity. So many of God's people before Christ's birth desired to see what the disciples have seen, kings and prophets alike, who had nothing to prompt them forward except commitment to the Word.

Just as so many of God's chosen people did, it is easy for us to fall flat in our faith, to give in to the temptation to base what is real solely on our senses. The "wise and learned" that Christ refers to in this Gospel, are those scientists and intellectuals in modern society that claim Catholicism is not valid because of a lack of scientific backing, that God Himself is a human creation, that it is irrational to believe in what science cannot prove. Christ says that it is from these people that the Kingdom of God remains hidden, but it is to the childlike that it will be revealed. Christ is telling us to act as children do, not to irrationally believe in something, but to go beyond that which our senses initially tell us—to perhaps, *have faith* in Christ's words.

Yet, as Christians, we are not in the same positions as the prophets and kings of Old. We, like the disciples, *can* see Christ in the flesh, we *can* hear His words spoken to us. How? Through the Mass. It is in the Mass that Christ becomes *truly* present to us in the Eucharist. The Priest, acting *In Persona Christi*, in the Person of Christ, becomes a vessel of the Holy Spirit, changing the very substance of the bread to become the true body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ. Similar to the Incarnation, it is at this moment that "the Word [becomes] flesh, and [dwells] among us" (John 1:14). The consecration of the Host is the fulfillment of Christ's promise to us, to be with us always, even unto the end of the age. My brothers and sisters, this is a gift that God's people before Christ never had. This Advent Season, as we prepare for Christ's birth, let us be reminded that it is not only the disciples whose eyes were blessed to see Christ in the flesh, it is not only their ears that were blessed to hear Christ's words. It is in the Mass that we too see what they have seen, that we too hear what they have heard, and it is here that we enter into a communion with Christ. Brothers and sisters, do not allow Christ to be hidden from you, but rather, in that moment, be as children, and be revealed to the Truth.

Reading 1

Isiah 11:1-10

On that day,
A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,
and from his roots a bud shall blossom.
The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him:
a Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
A Spirit of counsel and of strength,
a Spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD,
and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD.

Not by appearance shall he judge,
nor by hearsay shall he decide,
But he shall judge the poor with justice,
and decide aright for the land's afflicted.
He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked.
Justice shall be the band around his waist,
and faithfulness a belt upon his hips.

Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
The calf and the young lion shall browse together,
with a little child to guide them.
The cow and the bear shall be neighbors,
together their young shall rest;
the lion shall eat hay like the ox.
The baby shall play by the cobra's den,
and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair.
There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD,
as water covers the sea.

On that day,
The root of Jesse,
set up as a signal for the nations,
The Gentiles shall seek out,
for his dwelling shall be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm

PS 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

R. (see 7) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, with your judgment endow the king,
and with your justice, the king's son;
He shall govern your people with justice
and your afflicted ones with judgment.

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Justice shall flower in his days,
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.

May he rule from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

He shall rescue the poor when he cries out,
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.

He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;
the lives of the poor he shall save.

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

May his name be blessed forever;

as long as the sun his name shall remain.
In him shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed;
all the nations shall proclaim his happiness.
R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

Gospel

Luke 10:21-24

Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said,
"I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
for although you have hidden these things
from the wise and the learned
you have revealed them to the childlike.
Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will.
All things have been handed over to me by my Father.
No one knows who the Son is except the Father,
and who the Father is except the Son
and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him."

Turning to the disciples in private he said,
"Blessed are the eyes that see what you see.
For I say to you,
many prophets and kings desired to see what you see,
but did not see it,
and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it."