

First Sunday of Advent, November 28 Jer 33:14-16; 1 Thes 3:12- 4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

As we begin the season of Advent, our thoughts turn toward the coming of Jesus. The name of this season comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning arrival – most commonly the solemn entrance of an emperor.

That is indeed what the readings from Jeremiah and Luke promise: the arrival of the King of Kings. We recall, of course, his first coming as the child of Bethlehem, the Incarnate Word whose birth we will soon celebrate. Even more so, however, we are pointed toward his second, triumphal arrival – his *adventus* – on the last day. The prophet speaks not only of the coming of the savior but of the state of the world when it has been made new and imbued with peace and justice. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks in plain terms about the awe that this second coming will inspire and the difficulties we must face on the way there.

However, what do we do meanwhile?

We can begin with St. Paul's charge to us. In today's Epistle, he invites us to "increase and abound in love for one another and for all," and to grow in holiness according to the teachings of Jesus. As the psalm reminds us, God will show us the way of love through humility and justice, and above all, it is in the first coming and earthly ministry of Jesus Christ that he has given us our pattern. Until the world is made perfect, we can work to make it better by contemplating the words of Jesus, the Word made flesh, and living them in our lives.

"Let us build the city of God; may our tears be turned into dancing!  
For the Lord, our light and our love, has turned the night into day." (Dan Schutte)

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