

First Wednesday of Advent

Is 25: 6-10a, Mt 15: 29-37

As we start the Advent season, the reading and gospel are reminders of how generous, loving and forgiving God is as we prepare for his greatest gift, his only son Jesus.

In the first reading, Isaiah provides an image of a mountain top as a representation of God's kingdom, appearing as a kingdom of riches and plenty. The reading takes steps to show us that all are welcome in God's kingdom indicating that the barriers (or veils as indicated in the reading) that may exist on earth are stripped away. Any pain or suffering experienced will be stripped away as a kind, merciful God also provides comfort and healing. It is a place intended for everyone. Just as God gave the world his only son, Jesus, for all.

We also see Jesus' generosity in Matthew's gospel where we follow Jesus to the mountain top with crowds of people following him there. The crowd consists of a variety of people with physical ailments including blindness, deafness, mute or other physical limitations. He has compassion for the people as they congregate around Jesus seeking relief while He tends to their ailments. I think about how his anticipated coming will heal and nourish us (through the multiplication of fish and loaves for the people). The Advent season is our preparation for the coming of God's greatest gift of Jesus to heal and nourish us all.

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