

REFLECTION: I remember a time I could have done things differently. This is what I would have done... I remember... I remember...

OUR FATHER

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
R. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

SIGN OF PEACE

Jesus, you said to your apostles: “I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live forever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
R. And with your spirit.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **grant us peace.**

This is Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are we who are called to his supper.
Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray:
Lord,
Sometimes the choices we make hurt others, including the ones we love the most. Help us remember who we are and teach us to stand before you without fear.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**

The Time Will Come

WISDOM FROM THE CELLS

I remember waking up in juvenile hall one morning thinking to myself that it really sucks to be in this cell all day when I could be out there with my family and friends. I remember saying that even school would be better than being locked up, and I hated school. But I realized that I was making the wrong decisions in my life and was not living with a cause, but rather living without one. I really had no idea what I was doing with my life. I was just taking it one day at a time.

Once I realized that I had to change the way I was living, I began living for the right cause, which was my family and myself, but it only lasted for so long. Eventually, I fell back to my old ways.

Now, I’m in prison and I wish I had stayed on track, stayed in school, and simply listened to what I was told. The life I was living was a life I no longer wanted to live. There was no honor in the way I was living. It felt good to finally let go of all that anger and pride and just be happy with the person I truly wanted to be, and that wasn’t a bad person.

From that day on, I stopped caring about what others thought of me and I was no longer trying to prove a point to everyone that I was down for the “cause”, which was a false cause. Instead of living for the wrong cause, I began to live a life worth living and that was making my family proud and showing them that they are my inspiration to do what’s right in my life.

- Angel, who is in a California State Prison.

**1st Sunday of Advent
Cycle C | December 1, 2024**



PENITENTIAL RITE

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.
R. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray:
Our saving God,
Advent is our season of waiting for the coming of your Son Jesus. Wake us up and help us recognize him, that he may be the light of our lives. Help us prepare with patience and hope.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
R. Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Jeremiah 33: 14-16

The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah. In those days, in that time, I will raise up for David a just shoot ; he shall do what is right and just in the land. In those days Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure; this is what they shall call her: “The LORD our justice.”

The Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 25: 4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.
Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;
teach me your paths,
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my savior,
and for you I wait all the day.
R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.
Good and upright is the LORD;
thus he shows sinners the way.
He guides the humble to justice,
and teaches the humble his way.
R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.
All the paths of the LORD are kindness
and constancy
toward those who keep his covenant and
his decrees.
The friendship of the LORD is with those
who fear him,
and his covenant, for their instruction.
R. To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Brothers and sisters: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen. Finally, brothers and sisters, we earnestly ask and exhort you in the Lord Jesus that, as you received from us how you should conduct yourselves to please God and as you are conducting yourselves you do so even more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand. “Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

MEDITATION: MAKING CHOICES

(from the eyes of a chaplain)	other youngsters for your barrio	you look into the mirror and you recall the moment when you signed the book of life in juvenile hall and how lost you felt for some days because you didn't know who you were anymore it was confusing	we make choices and one day our body is laid in a common grave with no tears shed nothing given back to this world no children no parents forgotten identity?
sitting with josé yesterday afternoon in juvenile hall	now you stand before the mirror and ask yourself who are you?		
i asked him how he felt after sunday	you look like the same person you have the same tattoos the same bald head but something is different what is it?	but you knew it is not who you were or who you are it is who you are becoming	i just don't understand why some of us get it and others don't
he said a real change of the heart my life changed when i spoke to my dad during the visit	who are you?		
i have never spoken to him like that when i returned to my room i threw away all the things with my gang's name	in a split second you get it it is not about who you are it is about who you want to become	you remember how other youngsters signed the book of life but nothing happened within them	why some of us keep making choices that bring us unhappiness and others make choices that give us a new identity
identity so who are you when you take away your gang identity?	who are you?		
who are you when you look into the mirror?	you are about a big world your identity is not about two blocks of posting chilling getting high missions	they wanted to look good with the volunteers and they went straight back to banging for their hood they always said when i get out when i leave this place i really will change but not today	pray for those homies i knew who never saw the big picture the big world may they rest in peace
before you were about getting respect about reputation for blasting or hurting	sometimes before going to sleep at night		

