

The Time Will Come

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

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.



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.

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.

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.

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)

sitting with José
yesterday afternoon
in juvenile hall

i asked him
how he felt
after Sunday

he said
a real change
of the heart
my life changed
when i spoke
to my dad
during the visit

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

identity
so who are you
when you take away
your gang identity?

who are you
when you look
into the mirror?

before
you were about
getting respect
about reputation
for blasting or hurting
other youngsters

for your barrio

now you stand
before the mirror
and ask yourself
who are you?

you look like
the same person
you have
the same tattoos
the same bald head
but something is
different
what is it?

who are you?

in a split second
you get it
it is not about
who you are
it is about
who you want
to become

who are you?

you are
about a big world
your identity is not
about two blocks
of posting
chilling
getting high
missions

sometimes
before going
to sleep at night
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

but you knew
it is not who
you were
or who you are
it is who you are
becoming

you remember
how other youngsters
signed the book of life
but nothing happened
within them

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

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?

i just don't
understand
why some of us
get it and others
don't

why some of us
keep making
choices
that bring us
unhappiness
and others
make choices
that give us
a new identity

pray for those
homies i knew
who never saw
the big picture
the big world
may they rest
in peace



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.**

