**DECEMBER 2017**

## FIRST DECADE OF DECEMBER

## MY WORDS WILL NOT PASS AWAY

## Dn 7,2-14; Ps Dn 3,75-81; Lk 21,29-33

**1 DECEMBER**

The Word of Christ Jesus is in all equal to the Word of the Father. The Word of the Father always lasts. Even the Word of Christ Jesus always lasts. It never passes, it never sets.

*Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; Indeed, she has received from the hand of the Lord double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; The rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all mankind shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. A voice says, "Cry out!" I answer, "What shall I cry out?" "All mankind is grass, and all their glory like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower wilts, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it. (So then, the people is the grass.) Though the grass withers and the flower wilts, the word of our God stands forever" (Is 40,1-8).*

Since the Word of God and Christ Jesus never passes, it never goes down, we can build our home, as on a solid rock on it. In fact, Jesus wants his Word to be the rock upon which our home is built today and forever. Whoever does not build on the Word of Jesus his present, loses time and even eternity.

*"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?' Then I will declare to them solemnly, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.' "Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock. And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined" (Mt 7,21-27).*

Note well. It is not this or that other word of Jesus that never dawns, never passes, never fails, but every Word and all his Gospel. What is written in the Gospel is eternally the one and only rock on which our house must be built. Building your own life in other words is infinite foolishness. You work for hell. Unfortunately, today we must confess that on the one hand there is the Gospel and on the other hand the word of men: theologians, philosophers, psychologists, anthropologists, scientists, doctors and masters. The word of men is undermining from the roots the Word of Christ the Lord and is planted firmly in the hearts of men. Either you think according to men, or you are considered non-men. The Christian who thinks according to Christ is not condemned "like beasts", but is himself considered a beast, placed under the animals.

*He taught them a lesson. "Consider the fig tree and all the other trees. When their buds burst open, you see for yourselves and know that summer is now near; in the same way, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.*

That the Word of God, the Word of Christ, always lasts, will never pass, means that it can be verified at all times and in every place. Having placed our life outside the Word of the Lord, what do we gather? Vanity, uselessness, poverty, wretchedness, vice, sin and death. In the Word of God, all life is lived. In the Word of Christ one works for bliss. In the word of man everything is done for vice, misery, spiritual and even physical death. History is the highest testimony that what Jesus said is pure truth. You exit the Word of Jesus, you enter gloom, into darkness. Judah went out of the Upper Room, from the light of Christ. Outside it was night, it was dark, it was hell.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make us stay in the Word.

## BE VIGILANT AT ALL TIMES AND PRAY

## Dn 7,15-27; Ps Dn 3,82-87; Lk 21,34-36

**2 DECEMBER**

Every day, the disciple of Jesus is attacked by a thousand *"pathogenic agents"* that have one purpose: destroying in him even the smallest and insignificant ties that still resist and somehow cause his life to have a semblance of faith in Christ Jesus. These destroying *"agents"* of Christ in the heart, mind, body, spirit, soul, thoughts, desires, will, aspirations are widespread with subtle dexterity and agile cunning. Today there is an *"agent"* resistant to every medicine. It comes under different names: *"welcome"*, *"compassion", "mercy", "piety", "justification", "law", "justice", "true humanity" and "dignity".* They are names that abolish from the heart every truth contained in the Word of the Lord. They are names invented just to dissociate the mind from the will of Christ Jesus and his Law. By preventing the Christian from connecting to Christ, the temptation seduces, conquers and sin and transgression kill and massacre many hearts.

Jesus reveals to us that there is only one way to not fall into this subtle, agile cunning of Satan, according to which sin, the violation of Commandments, the abolition of every reference to the Word of Christ Jesus must be considered style, mode of being and living of modern society. Modern societies must all be built on the absence not of Christ, but of the Word of Christ. We need Christ, we need the Church, we need the bishops, we need parish priests and we need the whole structure of the sacred. The entire thing and everything must be used as a blanket to hide the rampant idolatry that consumes, destroys and annihilates us. If Satan removed the Pope from the Church, everyone would remain bewildered. The same goes was for a bishop and a pastor. The same goes also of sacraments and sacred celebrations. Instead Satan preserves these things, beautifies these things, makes these things modern, provided there is not in them an atom of Word in them, a tiny fragment of the truth of Christ.

The only way is prayer. But what is prayer in truth? It is to know that we are like rocks that from the sky precipitate on the earth. If we do not have a tool that not only slows down our fall, but even makes us stay forever suspended from falling or precipitating into the world's thoughts and into its vanity of death, we precipitate with more and more acceleration and we crush in the mindset of this century. Through prayer, the Holy Spirit becomes our strength that not only prevents us from falling into and be plunged into the thoughts of the earth, but also and above all elevates us more and more to the heart of Jesus the Lord. For the prayer we come out of the hearts of men and choose to live as if in a stable dwelling place the heart of Jesus the Lord. Whoever lives in Christ will always think as Christ. He will distance himself from the thought of the world and its lethal philosophies. Only prayer protects and frees from every *"agent"* that wants us to be crushed into the immoral thoughts of the earth.

*"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."*

Our prayer is the fruit of faith and faith is in the Word of Jesus the Lord. If I believe in the Word of Jesus, I know that dissipations, drunkenness, afflictions of life with a thousand other things on earth, come, attack me, conquer me and make me their slave. Since I believe, I cling to the Word of Jesus and from the Word, from obedience to it, I ask Christ to send His Holy Spirit to act as communion for me with the Father's heart, binding me indissolubly to Him for all the days of my life. If I do not believe in the Word of Christ, I do not need any prayer. What is the need of the Spirit, if there is no need to watch out from the world and its mortal traps? Everything is from the purest faith in the Word of Jesus the Lord.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make us of perfect faith in Jesus.

## AND FIND YOU SLEEPING

## Is 63,16b-17.19b; 64,2-7; Ps 79,2-3b.15-16.18-19; 1Cor 1,3-9; Mk 13,33-37

### 3 DECEMBER – Ist SUNDAY OF ADVENT B

Biblical images of death are the universal flood and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. At the time of the Flood and also of Sodom and Gomorrah, the man had fallen asleep in his sin, in his wickedness and immorality. The Lord comes, decides his earthly purification intervention. Noah is saved for his faith and righteousness. The righteous Lot is saved for an act of mercy from his Lord.

*Then the Lord said to Noah: "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for you alone in this age have I found to be truly just. Of every clean animal, take with you seven pairs, a male and its mate; and of the unclean animals, one pair, a male and its mate; likewise, of every clean bird of the air, seven pairs, a male and a female, and of all the unclean birds, one pair, a male and a female. Thus you will keep their issue alive over all the earth. Seven days from now I will bring rain down on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and so I will wipe out from the surface of the earth every moving creature that I have made." Noah did just as the Lord had commanded him. Noah was six hundred years old when the flood waters came upon the earth. Together with his sons, his wife, and his sons' wives, Noah went into the ark because of the waters of the flood. Of the clean animals and the unclean, of the birds, and of everything that creeps on the ground, (two by two) male and female entered the ark with Noah, just as the Lord had commanded him. As soon as the seven days were over, the waters of the flood came upon the earth. In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month: it was on that day that All the fountains of the great abyss burst forth, and the floodgates of the sky were opened. For forty days and forty nights heavy rain poured down on the earth (Gen 7,1-12).*

*As dawn was breaking, the angels urged Lot on, saying, "On your way! Take with you your wife and your two daughters who are here, or you will be swept away in the punishment of the city." When he hesitated, the men, by the Lord’s mercy, seized his hand and the hands of his wife and his two daughters and led them to safety outside the city. As soon as they had been brought outside, he was told: "Flee for your life! Don't look back or stop anywhere on the Plain. Get off to the hills at once, or you will be swept away." "Oh, no, my lord!" replied Lot. "You have already thought enough of your servant to do me the great kindness of intervening to save my life. But I cannot flee to the hills to keep the disaster from overtaking me, and so I shall die. Look, this town ahead is near enough to escape to. It's only a small place. Let me flee there - it's a small place, isn't it? - that my life may be saved." "Well, then," he replied, "I will also grant you the favour you now ask. I will not overthrow the town you speak of. Hurry, escape there! I cannot do anything until you arrive there." That is why the town is called Zoar. The sun was just rising over the earth as Lot arrived in Zoar; at the same time the Lord rained down sulphurous fire upon Sodom and Gomorrah (from the Lord out of heaven). He overthrew those cities and the whole Plain, together with the inhabitants of the cities and the produce of the soil. But Lot's wife looked back, and she was turned into a pillar of salt (Gen 19,15-26).*

Jesus will come to ask his disciples to give him account of how they have administered his Gospel, his grace, his Holy Spirit and every other gift he entrusted to their diligence and care. However, nobody knows either the day or the hour and or the mode of his calling. For this, each one must be ready at all times to appear before the Son of Man. Everyone must know that they will not be considered right because they were invested in a ministry but for holiness, truth, love, justice and the mercy with which the ministry was served. The lazy, libellous, wicked, foolish servants, those who have wasted the gift of the Lord, will be turned away by Him forever because they are not known as His disciples. But who believes in this truth today?

*Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"*

Jesus warned us. We are responsible for all his gifts. He can come at any time and ask account for our administration. It is a Word of very pure truth.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make us faithful and sage servants.

## A CENTURION APPROACHED HIM

## Is 2,1-5; Ps 121,1-2.4.6-9; Mt 8,5-11.

### 4 DECEMBER

There is no greater abomination, more horrendous sin, more infamous slander, more diabolical and infernal false testimony than using certain events of the Gospel to justify our evil, ignorant and foolish ideas, the result of our deliverance to the world and our surrender to Satan as his satellites and ministers. If this use at the exclusive propaganda service, *"publicity"* and justification of evil as light, truth and sound doctrine with roots and evangelical origins, is done by the world, it is a very grave offense to Christ. It always remains a serious offense, but it could even reveal to be less serious on judgment day. The world always thinks from the darkness of the world and from its heart of wickedness and darkness. If these things are then asserted, presented, taught, divulged, proposed and sown in the hearts by the same guardians of the heart of Jesus, who is all in his Word, then their sin has no excuse. These are eternally responsible because their Word not only is falsehood, lie, bad testimony, but also because it is scandal of the little ones. When the scandal is also added to falsehood, then we are already with our feet on the door of hell. Either we run to remedies immediately, or it opens and its fire swallows us.

Saying that Jesus, by healing the Centurion's servant, approves homosexuality is having not Satan's very heart, but it is going far beyond. It is surpassing Satan himself in his wicked and tortuous reasoning. First of all, it is an infamous slander for the Centurion. Since there were male and female servants in each house at that time, it is as if it were said that all masters were homosexual and all matrons lesbian. It is as if I said that all priests, since altar boys serve Mass are paedophiles, all male masters pederast, all female teachers live of homosexuality and so all male and female professors. Mine would be an unforgivable slander and a thousand eternal hells would not suffice as a punishment. In addition, the holiness of Jesus the Lord is offended. Jesus would be made the servant of sin and no longer of grace. Minister of disobedience to the Father and not of most pure obedience. His Father has fiery words against this abomination. Can Jesus who is from the Father be against his Father? They are one.

*You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; such a thing is an abomination. You shall not have carnal relations with an animal, defiling yourself with it; nor shall a woman set herself in front of an animal to mate with it; such things are abhorrent. "Do not defile yourselves by any of these things by which the nations whom I am driving out of your way have defiled themselves. Because their land has become defiled, I am punishing it for its wickedness, by making it vomit out its inhabitants. You, however, whether natives or resident aliens, must keep my statutes and decrees forbidding all such abominations by which the previous inhabitants defiled the land; otherwise the land will vomit you out also for having defiled it, just as it vomited out the nations before you. Everyone who does any of these abominations shall be cut off from among his people (Lev 18,22-29).*

Let whoever wants to justify sin, justify it in his name and with his authority.

*When he entered Capernaum, a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully." He said to him, "I will come and cure him." The centurion said in reply, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed. For I too am a person subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come here,' and he comes; and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I say to you, many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the kingdom of heaven.*

The Centurion is praised for his faith and he is a figure of all the world called to Christ. In him it is as if all peoples manifested and revealed the truth of their Saviour.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints elevate the honour of Christ Jesus.

## ALL THINGS HAVE BEEN HANDED OVER TO ME BY MY FATHER

## Is 11,1-10; Ps 71,1-2.7-8.12-13.17; Lk 10,21-24

### 5 DECEMBER

A pale image of Christ's universal mediation between God and the whole of humanity is Joseph the universal mediator between Pharaoh and the people. Joseph administered Egypt, but not Pharaoh. Jesus also *"administers"* the Father. To whomever He gives him, the Father is given. To whom He does not give him, the Father is not given. Everything is through Christ, in Him and for Him.

*"Therefore, let Pharaoh seek out a wise and discerning man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt. Pharaoh should also take action to appoint overseers, so as to regiment the land during the seven years of abundance. They should husband all the food of the coming good years, collecting the grain under Pharaoh's authority, to be stored in the towns for food. This food will serve as a reserve for the country against the seven years of famine that are to follow in the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish in the famine." This advice pleased Pharaoh and all his officials. "Could we find another like him," Pharaoh asked his officials, "a man so endowed with the spirit of God?" So Pharaoh said to Joseph: "Since God has made all this known to you, no one can be as wise and discerning as you are. You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people shall dart at your command. Only in respect to the throne shall I outrank you. Herewith," Pharaoh told Joseph, "I place you in charge of the whole land of Egypt." With that, Pharaoh took off his signet ring and put it on Joseph's finger. He had him dressed in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck. He then had him ride in the chariot of his vizier, and they shouted "Abrek!" before him. Thus was Joseph installed over the whole land of Egypt. "I, Pharaoh, proclaim," he told Joseph, "that without your approval no one shall move hand or foot in all the land of Egypt." Pharaoh also bestowed the name of Zaphnath-paneah on Joseph, and he gave him in marriage Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera, priest of Heliopolis. Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. After Joseph left Pharaoh's presence, he traveled throughout the land of Egypt (Gen 41,33-46).*

A pale idea is also Moses. Between Moses and God there were the Angels. Between Christ and the Father the Angels disappear. Angels are at Christ's service in everything. Everything happens through Christ, in Him and for Him. There are no mediators between Christ and the Father.

*Therefore, we must attend all the more to what we have heard, so that we may not be carried away. For if the word announced through angels proved firm, and every transgression and disobedience received its just recompense, how shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? Announced originally through the Lord, it was confirmed for us by those who had heard. God added his testimony by signs, wonders, various acts of power, and distribution of the gifts of the holy Spirit according to his will (Heb 2,1-4). Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel." Jesus answered and said to him, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than this." And he said to him, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you will see the sky opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man" (Jn 1,49-51).*

Today, a lethal heresy wishes could subvert this essential truth. Instead, it must be shouted to every heart and every mind, that both the Father and the Holy Ghost are *"administered"* by Christ Jesus. The mediation is universal. However, it is not out of him; it is not only through him, it must necessarily be in Him and with Him; peace is not drawn through him; it is drawn through Him, but in Him and with Him, being with Him one single body and one single life.

*At that very moment he 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."*

Today, too, the Church, once a sentry of the truth of Christ Jesus, suffers from this destructive disease of her truest and most holy essence. If she abolishes the mediation of Christ concerning salvation, she instantly is no longer the universal sacrament of salvation. She is entirely from Christ. What applies to Christ also applies to her.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints give us the truth of Christ Jesus.

## HE TOOK THE SEVEN LOAVES AND THE FISH

## Is 25,6-10a; Sal 22,1-6; Mt 15,29-37

### 6 DECEMBER

By multiplying the loaves, Jesus not only reveals himself superior to Moses, but also to Elijah and Elisha. In the Gospel Moses and Elijah are the Law and the Prophets. Jesus is infinitely beyond. First of all, this truth must be shouted at the Church for the Church to make it echo in the ear of every son of Adam. Every flesh must know who Christ the Lord is: He who comes to give fulfilment, fullness of truth and grace to the whole of the Old Testament. Every gesture and word of Jesus are revealing of this greatness.

*In the evening quail came up and covered the camp. In the morning a dew lay all about the camp, and when the dew evaporated, there on the surface of the desert were fine flakes like hoarfrost on the ground. On seeing it, the Israelites asked one another, "What is this?" for they did not know what it was. But Moses told them, "This is the bread which the Lord has given you to eat. "Now, this is what the Lord has commanded. So gather it that everyone has enough to eat, an omer for each person, as many of you as there are, each man providing for those of his own tent" (Ex 16,13-16). "Do not be afraid," Elijah said to her. "Go and do as you propose. But first make me a little cake and bring it to me. Then you can prepare something for yourself and your son. For the Lord, the God of Israel, says, 'The jar of flour shall not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry, until the day when the Lord sends rain upon the earth.'" She left and did as Elijah had said. She was able to eat for a year, and he and her son as well; The jar of flour did not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry, as the Lord had foretold through Elijah (1Kings 17,13-16).* *A man came from Baal-shalishah bringing the man of God twenty barely loaves made from the first fruits, and fresh grain in the ear. "Give it to the people to eat," Elisha said. But his servant objected, "How can I set this before a hundred men?" "Give it to the people to eat," Elisha insisted. "For thus says the Lord, 'They shall eat and there shall be some left over.'" And when they had eaten, there was some left over, as the Lord had said (2Kings 4,42-44).*

The bread that tomorrow the disciples of Jesus will have to multiply is eternally and divinely beyond the flat bread that the angel gives to eat to Elijah. The disciples will give every man the same Christ Jesus, in his body and in his blood, as a nourishment for the journey that must lead them to the holy mountain that is Paradise.

*And went a day's journey into the desert, until he came to a broom tree and sat beneath it. He prayed for death: "This is enough, O Lord! Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers." He lay down and fell asleep under the broom tree, but then an angel touched him and ordered him to get up and eat. He looked and there at his head was a hearth cake and a jug of water. After he ate and drank, he lay down again, but the angel of the Lord came back a second time, touched him, and ordered, "Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you!" He got up, ate and drank; then strengthened by that food, he walked forty days and forty nights to the mountain of God, Horeb (1Kings 19,4-8).*

Humanity is worn-out, exhausted, consumed by its sin, devoured and torn in its very nature. the disciples are the ones who have to give it the nourishment of eternal life. They are the ones who must distribute Christ Jesus. He has to be given as Word, Truth, Way, Bread of Life and Salvation, Resurrection and Eternal Light. Everything is from Christ and in Christ.

*Moving on from there Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, went up on the mountain, and sat down there. Great crowds came to him, having with them the lame, the blind, the deformed, the mute, and many others. They placed them at his feet, and he cured them. The crowds were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the deformed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind able to see, and they glorified the God of Israel. Jesus summoned his disciples and said, "My heart is moved with pity for the crowd, for they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, for fear they may collapse on the way." The disciples said to him, "Where could we ever get enough bread in this deserted place to satisfy such a crowd?" Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" "Seven," they replied, "and a few fish." He ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, gave thanks, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied. They picked up the fragments left over - seven baskets full.*

Virgin Mary, Mother of the Redemption, Angels and Saints, make us givers of the true Christ.

## WILL BE LIKE A WISE MAN

## Is 26,1-6; Ps 117,1.8-919-21.25.27a; Mt 7,21.24-27

### 7 DECEMBER

Wise, knowing is the Lord alone. He is the Sage and the source of all wisdom. Whoever wants to be wise must draw wisdom from him without any interruption.

*All wisdom comes from the Lord and with him it remains forever. The sand of the seashore, the drops of rain, the days of eternity: who can number these? Heaven's height, earth's breadth, the depths of the abyss: who can explore these? Before all things else wisdom was created; and prudent understanding, from eternity. To whom has wisdom's root been revealed? Who knows her subtleties? There is but one, wise and truly awe-inspiring, seated upon his throne: It is the Lord; he created her, has seen her and taken note of her. He has poured her forth upon all his works, upon every living thing according to his bounty; he has lavished her upon his friends. Fear of the Lord is glory and splendour, gladness and a festive crown. Fear of the Lord warms the heart, giving gladness and joy and length of days (Sir 1,1-10).*

Solomon reveals to us what his prayer to ask God for wisdom was. But he lacked in a great truth. He ignored that wisdom must asked instant by instant, action by action, word by word, moment by moment. Wisdom is God's ever-present gift. It is never given once and for all. Even if it is given once and for all, its action is always a fruit of God. Prayer asks God to make wisdom act in our favour. Without prayer, God might never act for us.

*God of my fathers, Lord of mercy. You who have made all things by your word And in your wisdom have established man to rule the creatures produced by you, To govern the world in holiness and justice, and to render judgment in integrity of heart: Give me Wisdom, the attendant at your throne, and reject me not from among your children; For I am your servant, the son of your handmaid, a man weak and short-lived and lacking in comprehension of judgment and of laws. Indeed, though one be perfect among the sons of men, if Wisdom, who comes from you, be not with him, he shall be held in no esteem. Now with you is Wisdom, who knows your works and was present when you made the world; Who understands what is pleasing in your eyes and what is conformable with your commands. Send her forth from your holy heavens and from your glorious throne dispatch her That she may be with me and work with me, that I may know what is your pleasure. For she knows and understands all things, and will guide me discreetly in my affairs and safeguard me by her glory; For what man knows God's counsel, or who can conceive what our Lord intends? For the deliberations of mortals are timid, and unsure are our plans. For the corruptible body burdens the soul and the earthen shelter weighs down the mind that has many concerns. And scarce do we guess the things on earth, and what is within our grasp we find with difficulty; but when things are in heaven, who can search them out? Or who ever knew your counsel, except you had given Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from on high? And thus were the paths of those on earth made straight, and men learned what was your pleasure, and were saved by Wisdom (Wis 9,1-18).*

Wisdom is the Holy Spirit for us in the New Testament. The Spirit is of Christ Jesus and he must always be drawn into his body. One becomes one body with Christ, from the body of Christ; in the body of Christ we always ask the Holy Spirit so that he always makes us walk fast in an obedience to the will of the Father. What does the Spirit of Christ operate? He leads us to all the truth that is in the heart of Christ and put into his Word. Christ, Word, Truth, Prayer, Holy Spirit and Obedience, must always be one thing. If they are separated, the house is built on the sand.

*"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. "Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock. And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined."*

Without the Spirit in us, we do not even believe in this Word of Jesus. We are made of sand.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make us one thing with Christ.

## HAIL, FAVOURED ONE!

## Gen 3,9-15.20; Ps 97,1-4; Eph 1,3-6.11-12; Lk 1,26-38

### 8 DECEMBER

When we speak of the Virgin Mary, we must never speak from our own heart, desire, or will, but always from the heart of the Father, from the truth of the Holy Spirit, from the love of Christ the Lord, from the reverence and deference of the Angels and from the vision that the saints of heaven have of her, eternally dwelling in her presence. If we start from us, the Virgin Mary is also beautiful according to us, but she is not beautiful according to God. Instead, she must shine in the world according to all the beauty lavished on her by the Lord and it is quite another thing. The beauty of God is without any comparison with the beauty that a man can give to a thing. The beauty of God is unlimited. The beauty of the man is always limited, circumscribed, depicted beauty and not real.

The Angel enters the house of the Virgin Mary, inviting her to rejoice. Why does she have to rejoice? Because the Lord wants to enter into her life in a unique and unrepeatable way. What the Lord is about to ask her, he cannot ask it to any other woman, forever and ever. He asks it only to her. Here is the first mystery the Angel reveals to us. When God needs a person to realize his own design of salvation, he always creates the right person. If the person were to fail, God is strongly constrained in the realization of his plan of love. A foundation fails him. It is as if - I speak in the human way - the Son and the Holy Ghost had failed him for his creation, or if for redemption, the Son had refused.

Every man must always respond to the Father in the same way as the Son and the Holy Spirit respond. This is the greatness of the Virgin Mary. She gave the Father an instant, ready yes, with no delay. Like the Son and the Holy Spirit, she too has put herself entirely in the hands of the Father. This is the greatness of the Mother of Jesus. On this greatness we should always be confronted, we who often waste our whole life and are never decided for a ready and immediate yes. Mary must rejoice because she will be the joy of God. God is her joy, but she too is the full joy of her Lord. God through Her might be God for His people, God of salvation, redemption, love, mercy, peace, elevation and holiness.

*In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.*

Mary must rejoice because the Angel reveals her, her great mystery. He tells her how God made her. It's as if she had been kneaded entirely of grace. Adam was kneaded with soil dust, Mary was kneaded with very noble material. God used his grace to make the Mother of his Son. Knowing this she must rejoice, exult and delight, not because there is anything that comes from her, but because the Lord was great to her. But now she must also do something for her God. She must knead with her flesh and blood his Son, who must become man, true man, for the redemption of humanity. God kneads Mary. Mary kneads God. God takes his grace, which is the *"blood of God"*. Mary also gives her blood and flesh to God so that the Holy Ghost kneads of true humanity the Son of the Most High.

Angels and Saints, help us read in the mystery of the Virgin Mary according to pure truth.

## THE HARVEST IS ABUNDANT

## Is 30,19-21.23-26; Ps 146,1-6; Mt 9,35-38-10,1.6-8

### 9 DECEMBER

The harvest is abundant. It is the truth that we already know from the first promise made by God to the snake and then subsequently confirmed by oath to Abraham. The abundant harvest is all the offspring of the woman, humanity. It is all the peoples of the earth, its nations and its tribes. No man is excluded from the kingdom of God.

*Then the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you shall be banned from all the animals and from all the wild creatures; On your belly shall you crawl, and dirt shall you eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel" (Gen 3,14-15).*

*Again the Lord’s messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing - all this because you obeyed my command'' (Gen 22,15-18).*

The harvest is abundant because it has been proclaimed by Jesus many times and in various ways: with the parable of the sower and with the mission given to the apostles after his glorious resurrection. The harvest is the whole world. Every man must be called to the kingdom.

*And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear" (Mt 13,3-9).*

*"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age" (Mt 28,18-20).*

If the harvest is abundant, cannot the Lord provide Him directly as he has done so far in the history of salvation. He comes, calls and sends. The problem is solved. No. This road is no longer viable. Christ Jesus wants everyone to feel responsible for the salvation of the world not only for today, but from the time of his birth until the advent of his Parusia. Being the disciple the heart of Christ, he must think of redemption as a work entirely entrusted to him. Seeing the whole world in need of salvation, not being him able, because of his limitation of nature, be everywhere, to speak to every man, he must ask the Lord to send him other workers. However, it must be a convinced prayer and demand: *"Lord, I am limited. The mission you have entrusted to me is universal. I pray to you, I beg you, make me universal, by adding many workers who dedicate themselves with their heart to the ministry of redemption."*

*Jesus went around to all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness. At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the labourers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out labourers for his harvest." Then he summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness. Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.*

Prayer for the master of the harvest to send workers for his harvest, must be the same as the one of a farmer to whom a hoe is delivered so that he works the entire land o the world. Never might he do it alone. But the land is to be worked on by him.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, support our prayer.

## PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

## Is 40,1-5.9-11; Ps 84,9-14; 2 Pt 3,8-14; Mk 1,1-8

### 10 DECEMBER – II SUNDAY OF ADVENT B

John the Baptist is the messenger of the Lord. He must proclaim to the people that his God is in their midst. He is about to come. He is about to be revealed and manifested.

*Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me; And suddenly there will come to the temple the Lord whom you seek, And the messenger of the covenant whom you desire. Yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who will endure the day of his coming? And who can stand when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire, or like the fuller's lye. He will sit refining and purifying (silver), and he will purify the sons of Levi, Refining them like gold or like silver that they may offer due sacrifice to the Lord. Then the sacrifice of Judah and Jerusalem will please the Lord, as in days of old, as in years gone by. I will draw near to you for judgment, and I will be swift to bear witness Against the sorcerers, adulterers, and perjurers, those who defraud the hired man of his wages, Against those who defraud widows and orphans; those who turn aside the stranger, and those who do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts (Mal 3,1-5).*

The road must be prepared for whoever comes. The road is in the desert of the heart. The high mountains of idolatry and the deep valleys of immorality must be removed from it. You have to put in it a pure faith in the Word and in the Commandments. The Lord must be welcomed not in sin, not in disobedience, but in fidelity to his Law.

*Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; Indeed, she has received from the hand of the Lord double for all her sins. A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; The rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all mankind shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken (Is 40,1-5).*

By manifesting these two prophecies completed, the Evangelist wants to affirm a very high truth. Whoever comes is not the Messiah of the Lord. It is the Lord himself who has become the Messiah of his people. Whoever comes as Messiah is the God who created man, created his people and now comes to redeem and save his people. It is not a king's son the one who comes, but it is the very God. That's why the way has to be prepared. The Lord comes.

*The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ (the Son of God). As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'" John (the) Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the holy Spirit."*

The Lord comes to prepare a sublime way for man to return to Him. This road is the flesh of His Only Begotten Son. The Word becomes flesh and will use his flesh, his body as a true salvage wagon to bring every man to his Father. Baruc's prophecy reveals to us the extraordinary power put in the Lord by this way.

*For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, And that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God. The forests and every fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at God's command; For God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company (Bar 5,1-9).*

Today the Christian is at a crossroad: whether to believe in the way that God has prepared for us to go to Him, or it must be abandoned forever. Today many disciples of Jesus are abandoning this path. The world seduced them, confused and captivated them. Since we believe that beyond this path, other ways do not exist, it is right that it is said to the Christian with clarity. If there were other ways, would God have died on a cross?

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, make us of a firm and compact faith.

**DECEMBER 2017**

## SECOND DECADE OF DECEMBER

## WHO IS THIS WHO SPEAKS BLASPHEMIES?

## Is 35,1-10; Ps 84,9-14; Lk 5,17-26

### 11 DECEMBER

In order to grasp all the divine wisdom of Christ the Lord, we must compare Jesus' words with those of the prophet Nathan, pronounced and said to David after his sin of adultery and also murder. It is a turning point for all ancient history. Never was there a moment so loaded of novelty and salvation.

*The Lord sent Nathan to David, and when he came to him, he said: "In a certain town there were two men, one rich, the other poor. The rich man had flocks and herds in great numbers. But the poor man had nothing at all except one little ewe lamb that he had bought. He nourished her, and she grew up with him and his children. She shared the little food he had and drank from his cup and slept in his bosom. She was like a daughter to him. Now, the rich man received a visitor, but he would not take from his own flocks and herds to prepare a meal for the wayfarer who had come to him. Instead he took the poor man's ewe lamb and made a meal of it for his visitor." David grew very angry with that man and said to Nathan: "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this merits death! He shall restore the ewe lamb fourfold because he has done this and has had no pity." Then Nathan said to David: "You are the man! Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." Nathan answered David: "The Lord on his part has forgiven your sin: you shall not die. But since you have utterly spurned the Lord by this deed, the child born to you must surely die" (Cf. 2Sam 12,1-15).*

Jesus watches out from saying, *"The Lord has removed your sin."* In his words there is no explicit reference to God: *"Man, your sins are forgiven."* The announcement of forgiveness of sins is a true prophetic announcement. All prophets have announced the will of God to forgive sin. If Jesus blasphemes, so do Moses, Nathan, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Amos, Malachi, Zephaniah, Joel and every other prophet and righteous of the Old Testament blaspheme. Also John the Baptist blasphemes who says of Jesus: "Here is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. Preaching forgiveness of sins is of the true prophet, while of false prophets is either the non forgiveness or declaring the man a non sinner. Scribes and Pharisees are doubly false prophets. They declare themselves without sin. They deny the proclamation of forgiveness to the true prophet.

*One day as Jesus was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and Jerusalem, and the power of the Lord was with him for healing. And some men brought on a stretcher a man who was paralyzed; they were trying to bring him in and set (him) in his presence. But not finding a way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on the stretcher through the tiles into the middle in front of Jesus. When he saw their faith, he said, "As for you, your sins are forgiven." Then the scribes and Pharisees began to ask themselves, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who but God alone can forgive sins?" Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them in reply, "What are you thinking in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins'' - he said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, rise, pick up your stretcher, and go home." He stood up immediately before them, picked up what he had been lying on, and went home, glorifying God. Then astonishment seized them all and they glorified God, and, struck with awe, they said, "We have seen incredible things today."*

If man does not become aware of his sin, the coming of Christ the Lord is vain. He comes to take away his sin. He takes it away by expiating it. He also takes it away by sending his Holy Spirit for a new creation of the man, so as to make him impeccable. Whoever must make every man become aware of his sin is the prophet of the living God. Today Jesus makes this man realize that he does not have to worry about the body alone. There is an even worse disease that is that of the soul. Sin paralyzes the soul. With the paralyzed soul one becomes incapable of loving, obeying, keeping the commandments and walking in the way of the Lord. Either the prophet of the living God takes him for first consciousness of his sin or for him it will be impossible that others know their sins and seek refuge with Christ so that to them too they may be taken away. Scribes and Pharisees are not needed to Jesus. He needs true prophets of the purest truth of his God.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make us true prophets of Christ Jesus.

## IT IS NOT THE WILL OF YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER

## Is 40,1-11; Ps 95,1-3.10-13; Mt 18,12-14

### 12 DECEMBER

Every minister of the Word, but also every Christian, before presenting himself to the Father at the time of death, must be able to say what Jesus Christ says in his closing prayer to his long discourse in the Cenacle. But he must also speak to the whole Church or Community as Paul spoke to the Bishops of Asia. Every pastor, every bishop, every Pope, like Jesus Christ, like Paul, at the evening of life must tell God and the Church: *"No one was lost my due to me. I'm not responsible if some soul was lost. I did everything I was asked. In nothing did I spare myself. I have consumed myself for the salvation of the souls entrusted to me."*

*When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you. I speak this in the world so that they may share my joy completely. I gave them your word, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world but that you keep them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth. Your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world. And I consecrate myself for them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth (Jn 17,12-19).*

*"But now I know that none of you to whom I preached the kingdom during my travels will ever see my face again. And so I solemnly declare to you this day that I am not responsible for the blood of any of you, for I did not shrink from proclaiming to you the entire plan of God. Keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock of which the holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, in which you tend the church of God that he acquired with his own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come among you, and they will not spare the flock. And from your own group, men will come forward perverting the truth to draw the disciples away after them. So be vigilant and remember that for three years, night and day, I unceasingly admonished each of you with tears (At 20,25-31).*

*Now I am ready to come to you this third time. And I will not be a burden, for I want not what is yours, but you. Children ought not to save for their parents, but parents for their children. I will most gladly spend and be utterly spent for your sakes. If I love you more, am I to be loved less? (2Cor 12,14-15).*

For our souls Christ Jesus was consumed spiritually and physically. He gave everything of himself. He divested himself of everything to make a gift of it to us. Even Paul is divested of everything, consumed for the salvation of our souls. This means looking for the sheep that has been lost: consuming one's life for its eternal redemption.

Jesus Christ, speaking to his disciples, but also to all the people of the Jews about the truth of his mission, does not refer to his will. He calls explicitly the will of the Father who is in heaven. It is not for a wish of his heart that the lost sheep must be sought and brought back to the fold, but for a very pure will of God. All the history of salvation up to Christ Jesus was an uninterrupted search by God to his people that was always tired of him and abandoned the safe enclosure of his alliance. Now the history of salvation changes substantially. It is the man, the saved, the redeemer, the son of God, that must perpetuate throughout the centuries the work of God, the work of Christ.

*What is your opinion? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them goes astray, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go in search of the stray? And if he finds it, amen, I say to you, he rejoices more over it than over the ninety-nine that did not stray. In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost.*

If the disciple of Jesus does not look for the lost sheep or lets them to get lost, they are lost for their sins, but of their death the Lord asks account to whoever has been omitting in this search. Either we enter into the depths of the New Covenant, or we will always be some baptized with the heart and mind out of the Gospel.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, make us real soul seekers.

## TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU

## Is 40,25-31; Ps 102,1-4.8.10; Mt 11,28-30

### 13 DECEMBER

The yoke of Jesus is not His Word and not His Cross. His yoke is his love. As He has taken on all the love of the Father on his shoulders and has lived it for the salvation of men, so his disciple takes all his love and lives it for the redemption of his brothers. The love of Jesus is gentle and light, for with His love He also gives us His Spirit and this transforms us into a spiritual and different nature. With the spiritual nature it will never become heavy, harsh and bitter. That is how this truth is revealed by Saint Paul in the First and Second Letters to the Corinthians.

*This God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God. Among human beings, who knows what pertains to a person except the spirit of the person that is within? Similarly, no one knows what pertains to God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the things freely given us by God. And we speak about them not with words taught by human wisdom, but with words taught by the Spirit, describing spiritual realities in spiritual terms. Now the natural person does not accept what pertains to the Spirit of God, for to him it is foolishness, and he cannot understand it, because it is judged spiritually.*

*The spiritual person, however, can judge everything but is not subject to judgment by anyone. For "who has known the mind of the Lord, so as to counsel him?" But we have the mind of Christ. Brothers, I could not talk to you as spiritual people, but as fleshly people, as infants in Christ. I fed you milk, not solid food, because you were unable to take it. Indeed, you are still not able, even now, for you are still of the flesh. While there is jealousy and rivalry among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving in an ordinary human way? (1Cor 2,10-3,3).*

*Therefore, that I might not become too elated, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, an angel of Satan, to beat me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me. Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong (2Cor 12,7-10).*

Jesus' love will never have to be dissociated from the grace, the Holy Spirit, the transformation of nature inherited from Adam into the spiritual nature. Without the grace and the transformation of nature, it would be heavy for a son of Adam to live the love of Jesus just as he lived it, letting himself be nailed to the cross. With the grace, the Holy Spirit, the transformed nature, living in Christ's body, as the true body of Christ, we all can. Not for our own strength, but for the Lord that gives us all strength. This truth is also taught by Saint Paul in the Letter to the Philippians.

*I rejoice greatly in the Lord that now at last you revived your concern for me. You were, of course, concerned about me but lacked an opportunity. Not that I say this because of need, for I have learned, in whatever situation I find myself, to be self-sufficient. I know indeed how to live in humble circumstances; I know also how to live with abundance. In every circumstance and in all things I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me (Phil 4,10-13).*

The refreshment of Christ is all grace and strength in the Holy Spirit that makes light and sweet all his love that we assumed in order to transform it into grace of salvation for every man.

*"Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."*

The love of Christ is delimited by His Word. If you leave the Word, you do not love. If you remain in the Word, love begins at a minimum and continues its path without any limit or measure. It can reach the highest peaks. Jesus brought him to a height beyond which it is impossible to reach to a creature. In him in love there is no beyond.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, help us to love like Jesus.

## WHOEVER HAS EARS OUGHT TO HEAR

## Is 41,13-20; Ps 144,1.9-13; Mt 11,11-15

### 14 DECEMBER

Jesus wants his disciples able to read the history that is lived under their eyes. A disciple that does not know how to read what happens attests that the Spirit of the Lord, that is the Spirit of Wisdom, Knowledge, Intelligence, Science and Truth does not live in him. John is not Elijah that returns with his chariot of fire among the sons of Abraham to prepare the way for the Lord. Instead, he is full of the Spirit of fortitude, word, authority and authenticity that was of Elijah. This truth is proclaimed by the Angel Gabriel in the temple. His occurred fulfilment is attested by Elisabeth to the Virgin Mary. Zechariah in his song of blessing prophesies that John will go before the Lord to prepare him the way. If Elijah came, the Lord also came. In fact, Elijah has no other mission to carry out: just prepare the way for the God who comes to visit his people. However, we know that he does not come in his purest eternal essence, with special theophanies. Instead, he comes with his divine essence of the Eternal Son hidden in the flesh.

*But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of (the) Lord. He will drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will be filled with the holy Spirit even from his mother's womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord" (Lk 1,13-17).*

*During those days Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled" (Lk 1,39-45).*

*Then Zechariah his father, filled with the holy Spirit, prophesied, saying: "Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has visited and brought redemption to his people. He has raised up a horn for our salvation within the house of David his servant, even as he promised through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old: salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, to show mercy to our fathers and to be mindful of his holy covenant and of the oath he swore to Abraham our father, and to grant us that, rescued from the hand of enemies, without fear we might worship him in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. And you, child, will be called prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God by which the daybreak from on high will visit us to shine on those who sit in darkness and death's shadow, to guide our feet into the path of peace" (Lk 1,67-79).*

Our faith does not walk in history for isolated truths and events detached from each other. It is a communion of many words, many prophecies, many oracles and many events. If only one word, one prophecy, one oracle and one event comes out of communion, all the others suffer of lack of pure and intense light. Knowing that Elijah has come, everyone can know, must know that the Lord is in the midst of his people. Placing attention and seeing his actions one can come to the identification.

*Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent are taking it by force. All the prophets and the law prophesied up to the time of John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah, the one who is to come. Whoever has ears ought to hear.*

One truth must always be remembered: there is an abyss between the letter of prophecy and its fulfilment. The letter is incapable of containing the divine and eternal abyss. However, it confines the only limit in which the abyss might be accomplished, never out of it.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, fill us with all wisdom.

## IS VINDICATED BY HER WORKS

## Is 48,17-19; Ps 1,1-4.6; Mt 11,16-19

### 15 DECEMBER

In the Old Testament wisdom is the light guiding the Father in every work of his creation and redemption of man. It is a light given to man in the Word of God and in his Law. It is always a present light to ask to God in order to fulfil his will according to his will and not according to our own. Everything is from wisdom.

*Such things as are hidden I learned and such as are plain; for Wisdom, the artificer of all, taught me. For in her is a spirit intelligent, holy, unique, Manifold, subtle, agile, clear, unstained, certain, Not baneful, loving the good, keen, unhampered, beneficent, kindly, Firm, secure, tranquil, all-powerful, all-seeing, And pervading all spirits, though they be intelligent, pure and very subtle. For Wisdom is mobile beyond all motion, and she penetrates and pervades all things by reason of her purity. For she is an aura of the might of God and a pure effusion of the glory of the Almighty; therefore nought that is sullied enters into her. For she is the refulgence of eternal light, the spotless mirror of the power of God, the image of his goodness. And she, who is one, can do all things, and renews everything while herself perduring; And passing into holy souls from age to age, she produces friends of God and prophets. For there is nought God loves, be it not one who dwells with Wisdom. For she is fairer than the sun and surpasses every constellation of the stars. Compared to light, she takes precedence; for that, indeed, night supplants, but wickedness prevails not over Wisdom (Wis 7,21-30).*

In the Old Testament, wisdom transforms all of God's creative omnipotence into saving and redemptive omnipotence. It guides the Lord and suggests him the best way of all in order to be able to save and redeem the creature made by Him in his image.

*For neither is there any god besides you who have the care of all, that you need show you have not unjustly condemned; Nor can any king or prince confront you on behalf of those you have punished. But as you are just, you govern all things justly; you regard it as unworthy of your power to punish one who has incurred no blame. For your might is the source of justice; your mastery over all things makes you lenient to all. For you show your might when the perfection of your power is disbelieved; and in those who know you, you rebuke temerity. But though you are master of might, you judge with clemency, and with much lenience you govern us; for power, whenever you will, attends you. And you taught your people, by these deeds, that those who are just must be kind; And you gave your sons good ground for hope that you would permit repentance for their sins. For these were enemies of your servants, doomed to death; yet, while you punished them with such solicitude and pleading, granting time and opportunity to abandon wickedness, With what exactitude you judged your sons, to whose fathers you gave the sworn covenants of goodly promises! (Wis 12,13-21).*

In the New Testament, Wisdom is the Holy Spirit that leads and moves Christ to bring on earth and to show men all the love of the Father. Guided by Wisdom, Jesus transforms his body into a holocaust for the redemption of his brothers.

*Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Phil 2, 6-11).*

To the man that does not believe in his love and in his light, Jesus announces that Wisdom is recognized as righteous for the works that it carries out. Love is always credible.

*"To what shall I compare this generation? It is like children who sit in marketplaces and call to one another, 'We played the flute for you, but you did not dance, we sang a dirge but you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they said, 'He is possessed by a demon.' The Son of Man came eating and drinking and they said, 'Look, he is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is vindicated by her works."*

The whole world will have to confess that Jesus has only loved. His cross is only love.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make also us only love.

## SO ALSO WILL THE SON OF MAN SUFFER

## Sir 48,1-4.9-11; Ps 79,2-3b.15-16.18-19; Mt 17,10-13

### 16 DECEMBER

In the vision of the Son of Man, as it is narrated by Daniel, no mention is made of suffering, of the cross, as the one and only way to reach God.

*As I watched, Thrones were set up and the Ancient One took his throne. His clothing was snow bright, and the hair on his head as white as wool; His throne was flames of fire, with wheels of burning fire. A surging stream of fire flowed out from where he sat; Thousands upon thousands were ministering to him, and myriads upon myriads attended him. The court was convened, and the books were opened. As the visions during the night continued, I saw One like a son of man coming, on the clouds of heaven; When he reached the Ancient One and was presented before him, He received dominion, glory, and kingship; nations and peoples of every language serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away, his kingship shall not be destroyed (Dn 7,9-10. 13-14).*

Jesus unifies all the prophecies - those on the Just Suffering, on the Servant of the Lord, on the Son of Man, on the Messiah, on the Prophet like Moses and every other one that concerns him and they are about seventy - into a single prophecy. On suffering everyone knows the one narrated by the Psalms. Today we want to offer a passage of Lamentations to meditation.

*I am a man who knows affliction from the rod of his anger, One whom he has led and forced to walk in darkness, not in the light; Against me alone he brings back his hand again and again all the day. He has worn away my flesh and my skin, he has broken my bones; He has beset me roundabout with poverty and weariness; He has left me to dwell in the dark like those long dead. He has hemmed me in with no escape and weighed me down with chains; Even when I cry out for help, he stops my prayer; He has blocked my ways with fitted stones, and turned my paths aside. A lurking bear he has been to me, a lion in ambush! He deranged my ways, set me astray, left me desolate. He bent his bow, and set me up as the target for his arrow. He pierces my sides with shafts from his quiver. I have become a laughingstock for all nations, their taunt all the daylong; He has sated me with bitter food, made me drink my fill of wormwood. He has broken my teeth with gravel, pressed my face in the dust; My soul is deprived of peace, I have forgotten what happiness is; I tell myself my future is lost, all that I hoped for from the Lord. The thought of my homeless poverty is wormwood and gall;*

*Remembering it over and over leaves my soul downcast within me. But I will call this to mind, as my reason to have hope: The favours of the Lord are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent; They are renewed each morning, so great is his faithfulness. My portion is the Lord, says my soul; therefore will I hope in him. Good is the Lord to one who waits for him, to the soul that seeks him; The waters flowed over my head, and I said, "I am lost!" I called upon your name, O Lord, from the bottom of the pit; You heard me call, "Let not your ear be deaf to my cry for help!" You came to my aid when I called to you; you said, "Have no fear!" You defended me in mortal danger, you redeemed my life. You see, O Lord, how I am wronged; do me justice! You see all their vindictiveness, all their plots against me. You hear their insults, O Lord, (all their plots against me), The whispered murmurings of my foes, against me all the day; Whether they sit or stand, see, I am their taunt song (Lam 3,1-66).*

The man that suffers is the whole humanity because of its sin. Jesus suffers not for his sins - He is innocent, spotless, immaculate and pure - but because he has taken upon himself for a very great love all the sins and all the pains due to it in order to fasten them in his body on the cross and to remove them from the world. Suffering is a compulsory way for Christ. Redemption is in the shedding of blood. He knows it and offers himself with a determined, firm and resolute will. He saves for vicarious atonement, taking our place. The world treats Jesus according to the power of his sin. Jesus lets himself to be treated.

*Then the disciples asked him, "Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" He said in reply, "Elijah will indeed come and restore all things; but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him but did to him whatever they pleased. So also will the Son of Man suffer at their hands." Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.*

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, make us love suffering.

## TO TESTIFY TO THE LIGHT

## Is 61,1-2.10-11; Ps Lk 1,46-54; 1 Ts 5,16-24; Jn 1,6-8.19-28

### 17 DECEMBER – III SUNDAY OF ADVENT B

In Holy Scripture, true prophets do not need any testimony from men. It is their word fulfilled the testimony that accredits them to the men to whom they are sent. As the Lord is made credible in his truth by the perfect fulfilment of all his words, so it is of every one of his prophets. Why does John need no witnesses, and for Jesus the Father sends one so that everyone believed through him? What deep truth is hidden in this work of the highest wisdom of the Lord? What is the reason that escapes us?

Reason is not so much addressed to Jesus as instead to the people of the Lord. God wants the people not to confuse Jesus with any other man, avoids any comparison with any of his former messengers. Christ the Lord must be presented in his truth that is unique. It never existed and will never exist. In fact, John tells the Jews that Jesus comes from eternity. He is before him. He is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. He is the One on whom the Holy Spirit descends and remains and that baptizes in the Holy Spirit and fire. He is the One who has the winnowing fan in his hand to separate the good wheat from the straw and the chaff. Those who come to Christ must know his uniqueness. You cannot approach Jesus Christ by seeing him as another Moses, Elijah, Elisha, or other prophets. Jesus is not in the order of the most, but of the difference in nature and substance. Jesus is differently Other. His origins are in eternity. He is God from God, with God.

*A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites (to him) to ask him, "Who are you?" he admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Messiah." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am 'the voice of one crying out in the desert, "Make straight the way of the Lord,"' as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.*

I think that today another John the Baptist is necessary to come and say to the Church, the new people of God, who Christ Jesus is. Or that he himself comes, as he did with the Apostle John, and reveals himself in his mystery. Today the Church does not know either the mystery of Christ before time, or the mystery in time, or the mystery after time. If she loses the knowledge of the global mystery of Jesus Christ, his mystery is also lost, misplaced and she becomes in history an old rag or unclean cloth. The Church is eternally from Christ Jesus. She is the river that flows perpetually from the pierced chest of Jesus Crucified. If the truth of Jesus is lost, even her truth is lost and if the truth of Christ is falsified, her truth will be also result to be falsified. The mighty truth of her Bridegroom is urgent to the Church.

But who can today give a pope, a bishop, a priest, a deacon, a confirmed, a baptized, a married and a suffering person, the fullness of Christ's truth, if Christ is without his truth? It is necessary for the Holy Spirit to provide and send someone or come Himself to put Christ back on the candlestick so that he makes light to all who are in the house of the world. The world crisis is a crisis of the Church. The crisis of the Church is a crisis of Christ Jesus. The crisis of Christ Jesus envelops in it all of heaven and earth, eternity and time. That the visible and invisible universe is wrapped up by a powerful identity crisis, is attested by all the falsehoods we say about every existing reality: divine, eternal, human, real and spiritual. Christ is offered by ignorance and everything is clothed with ignorance.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, enlighten Christ of truth.

## JOSEPH, SON OF DAVID

## Jer 23,5-8; Ps 71,2.12-13.18-19; Mt 1,18-24

### 18 DECEMBER

In the history of salvation nothing comes by man's will, but everything originates from the will of God. Salvation is accomplished not for the works that are made in it, but for the undisputed and unconditional obedience to be offered to the Lord. Obedience and salvation: the former is the tree, the latter is the fruit. If there is no obedience, the tree is lacking, never might one taste only one fruit of life. The tree that produces it is missing. We can well say that obedience is the tree of life placed in the centre of the Garden of Eden. While the tree of death is disobedience. If he had welcomed Mary for a spontaneous motion of his heart, Joseph would have remained out of the mystery of salvation. Instead, the Lord breaks in his life, he is asked for immediate obedience, is commanded to do what he must do. He readily obeys, for Him the Lord can realize the mystery of redemption. His Son might be true King.

Mary and Joseph are one obedience, without any difference. Mary is asked to consecrate all her body and soul to the Father in a virginal manner. Joseph is also asked the same thing. He too will have to remain virgin forever for his God. He must be the true Father of adoption of Christ Jesus, the true virgin Spouse of the Mother of the Son of the Most High. The former and the latter are of the Lord, for the Lord, always according to his will. This mystery today escapes man, even the Christian. That Christians live a corrupt faith is attested by the fact that it is made of truth without the Truth. Every truth without Truth is false, unfruitful and sterile. It is truth without the truth governing the personal life without the will of God. Every disciple of Jesus is asked to show to the world how he lives his human truth perennially from the Truth of the Father, the Son, the Holy Ghost and their will. Joseph cannot live his truth from his own heart, but from the purest obedience to the will of God.

*Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.*

It is not the occasional attendance of Mass that distinguishes the Christian from the non-Christian. It is not even the observance of the Commandments that makes this distinction. Distinction begins when you walk day by day in the will of God. Joseph reveals to every man how one lives in the will of the Lord. One listens and performs instantly. One receives a word from God and he immediately gives it the most perfect and immediate obedience. Salvation is the fruit of obedience. For the yes that Joseph says to God, Jesus receives the progeny of David, becomes his descent, his son and can become king of the eternal kingdom. But even for Jesus, the same law is imposed. He may also be a descendant of David, but when does he become King of Israel, King of the Universe and King of heaven and earth? At the moment of his obedience that leads him to the crucifixion. Everything is done in obedience to the divine will.

For obedience Joseph takes Mary as his bride and lives with her as a pure and chaste virgin. For obedience he adopts Jesus and makes him his son, true son, of his heart, of his soul and of his spirit. For obedience he is delivered to the will of God and is placed at the exclusive service of the Mother and of the Son. Everything in him is obedience. From Joseph the Christian must learn that without obedience he is out of the mystery of salvation.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, teach us true obedience.

## HE WILL BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

## Jdg 13,2-7.24-25a; Ps 70,3-6.16-17; Lk 1,5-25

### 19 DECEMBER

All prophecies reveal that the future is in the hands of God. They tell man that tomorrow is the true creation of God, not the same as the ancient one or according to the forms of yesterday. What God is about to do for the tomorrow of man surpasses infinitely all forms and ways of yesterday. Yesterday is just a pale figure of what will be. The prophecy says that the Lord will send Elijah to prepare a people quite willing to accept his coming. But both Elijah and the Lord come in an unheard-of, unthinkable and unimaginable way. The Lord takes the Spirit of Elijah and with he fills John the Baptist with all his power, strength and truth. Instead, the Lord himself does not come in the cloud as for Moses, he sends his only-begotten Son so that he is made flesh. John will have to prepare the hearts to welcome the incarnate God.

*Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as those who were eyewitnesses from the beginning and ministers of the word have handed them down to us, I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received. In the days of Herod, King of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah of the priestly division of Abijah; his wife was from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both were righteous in the eyes of God, observing all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blamelessly. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren and both were advanced in years.*

*Once when he was serving as priest in his division's turn before God, according to the practice of the priestly service, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to burn incense. Then, when the whole assembly of the people was praying outside at the hour of the incense offering, the angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right of the altar of incense. Zechariah was troubled by what he saw, and fear came upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of (the) Lord. He will drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will be filled with the holy Spirit even from his mother's womb, and he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. He will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers toward children and the disobedient to the understanding of the righteous, to prepare a people fit for the Lord."*

*Then Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel said to him in reply, "I am Gabriel, who stand before God. I was sent to speak to you and to announce to you this good news. But now you will be speechless and unable to talk until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at their proper time." Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and were amazed that he stayed so long in the sanctuary. But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He was gesturing to them but remained mute. Then, when his days of ministry were completed, he went home. After this time his wife Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months, saying, "So has the Lord done for me at a time when he has seen fit to take away my disgrace before others."*

The ancient truth becomes truth in the new truth. But every truth becomes truth in the absolute Truth, Without the absolute truth, no truth is truth, for they are all truths without life. The truth of the lay faithful is fulfilled in the truth of the priest. The truth of the priest in the truth of the bishop. The truth of the bishop in the Pope's truth. The Pope's truth in the truth of Christ. The truth of Christ in the truth of the Holy Spirit. The truth of the Holy Spirit in the absolute truth of the Father. But even the absolute truth of the Father is all accomplished in the truth of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The truth of the Son and of the Spirit is all accomplished in the Church, that is the body of Christ, a well-connected and joined body that is composed of apostles, prophets, evangelists, masters, teachers and every other charisma of the Holy Spirit. Scripture receives life from the Holy Spirit in the Tradition. Tradition and Scripture are enlivened by the Magisterium. This is the miracle of the path of prophecy in time. John is the truth of Elijah.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, make us from the truth of Christ.

## OF HIS KINGDOM THERE WILL BE NO END

## Is 7,10-14; Ps 23,1-6; Lk 1,26-38

### 20 DECEMBER

The Angel Gabriel comes and asks the Virgin Mary to make herself all available to her God and Lord, because through her he wants to fulfil three great prophecies already announced in the long history of the fathers. From her the King from the eternal kingdom must be born, but also must come to the light in the flesh the Son, that today, in the days of timeless eternity, the Father has generated, always according to the ancient prophecies.

*“But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain.”* *“I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.* *‘Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession.* *‘You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware’” (Ps 2,6-9).*

*The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”* *The Lord will stretch forth Your strong sceptre from Zion, saying, “Rule in the midst of Your enemies.”* *Your people will volunteer freely in the day of Your power; In holy array, from the womb of the dawn, Your youth are to You as the dew.* *The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind, “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek” (Ps 110 8109) 1-4).*

*And when your time comes and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your heir after you, sprung from your loins, and I will make his kingdom firm. It is he who shall build a house for my name. And I will make his royal throne firm forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. And if he does wrong, I will correct him with the rod of men and with human chastisements; but I will not withdraw my favour from him as I withdrew it from your predecessor Saul, whom I removed from my presence. Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever'" (2Sam 7,12-16).*

Great is the mystery that must be accomplished not only for Mary, but also in Mary. In Her, in her virginal womb, through the work of the Holy Spirit, the Son of the Eternal Father must become flesh and be born as a true man. Her assent is necessary so that everything can be done. This is the greatness of this woman. All the salvation of humanity is in her yes. If she says yes, the Word becomes flesh. The light, life, truth, grace, peace, salvation and redemption are born for humanity. If she says no, everything stops, is blocked. Nothing can happen. The yes of the woman gives truth to God's yes.

*In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."*

*But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.*

A truth must be shouted. For the yes of Mary the yes of Jesus Christ is born. For the yes of Christ Jesus, the yes of the Apostles is born. For the yes of the apostles the yes of every other disciple of Jesus. If the yes of the disciples and of the apostles fail today, even the yes of Jesus Christ stops concerning salvation and the yes of the Virgin Mary, the yes of the Holy Spirit and of the Father are frustrated. The Christian can give life to the yes of God, of the Virgin Mary, of Christ Jesus and of the Apostles, or block the whole process and the historical path of salvation and redemption in the world. When god's yes God is married with the yes of man, salvation always flourishes on our land. God needs our yes. When our yes is absent, even salvation is absent. A very serious responsibility!

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels, Saints, help us to say yes to our God.

**DECEMBER 2017**

## THIRD DECADE OF DECEMBER

## ELIZABETH, FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

## Ct 2,8-14; or: Soph 3,14-17; Ps 32,2-3.11-12.20-21; Lk 1,39-45

### 21 DECEMBER

Never before now has it occurred in Israel's history that the breath or puff of a man or woman was a true vehicle of the Holy Spirit. We can read what Elisha does on the dead guy as a breath of life. Never might one speak of the breath of the Holy Spirit.

*When Elisha reached the house, he found the boy lying dead. He went in, closed the door on them both, and prayed to the Lord. Then he lay upon the child on the bed, placing his mouth upon the child's mouth, his eyes upon the eyes, and his hands upon the hands. As Elisha stretched himself over the child, the body became warm. He arose, paced up and down the room, and then once more lay down upon the boy, who now sneezed seven times and opened his eyes (2Kings 4,32-35).*

The breath of life is the breath of God in the newly formed clay. You do not have to add anything else.

*At the time when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens - while as yet there was no field shrub on earth and no grass of the field had sprouted, for the Lord God had sent no rain upon the earth and there was no man to till the soil, but a stream was welling up out of the earth and was watering all the surface of the ground - the Lord God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being (Gen 2,4-7).*

In the Cenacle, the breath of Christ is the gift of the Holy Ghost breathed on the Disciples as their true breath of new and spiritual life. The disciples become new creatures. They have received the *"Eternal True Divine Immortal Spiritual Source of New Life"*.

*Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. (Jesus) said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (Jn 20,19-23).*

It is done in them what Jesus revealed to the Samaritan. They have become the source of water welling up to eternal life. They are springs in Christ of the Holy Spirit.

*"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (Jn 4,13-14).*

That the Apostles are springs of the Holy Spirit is attested by the conversation of those who have heard Peter's first sermon on Pentecost day. Peter's breath or voice is a vehicle of the Spirit of Conversion. It is He who pierces the hearts.

*Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and they asked Peter and the other apostles, "What are we to do, my brothers?" Peter (said) to them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the holy Spirit. For the promise is made to you and to your children and to all those far off, whomever the Lord our God will call."He testified with many other arguments, and was exhorting them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand persons were added that day (At 2,38-41).*

The Virgin Mary is the true figure of Christ and of the Church. The Holy Spirit comes out of her heart as the true breath of prophecy, filling Elizabeth and the Child in her womb.

*During those days Mary set out and travelled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."*

Elizabeth is a figure of the world. The Christian is in the image of the Mother of Jesus. If he is full of him, the Holy Ghost will emerge from his heart as the breath of prophecy and conversion.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints fill us with Holy Spirit.

## MY SOUL PROCLAIMS THE GREATNESS OF THE LORD

## 1Sam 1,24-28; Ps 1 Sam 2,1.4-8; Lk 1,46-55

### 22 DECEMBER

Every heart speaks according to the fullness that is in it. The Psalms teach that sin speaks in heart of the impious. The word that comes out is a lie about God and the whole creation. No truth will ever come out from hearts in which iniquity and idolatry reside.

*The wicked, in the haughtiness of his countenance, does not seek Him. All his thoughts are, “There is no God” (Ps 10 (9), 4), Transgression speaks to the ungodly within his heart; There is no fear of God before his eyes.**For it flatters him in his own eyes Concerning the discovery of his iniquity and the hatred of it.**The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; He has ceased to be wise and to do good.**He plans wickedness upon his bed; He sets himself on a path that is not good; He does not despise evil (Ps 36,35-2-5).*

The more the Lord dwells in the heart and the brighter the word that comes out of our mouth becomes. Anna is a woman full of faith in the Lord. Out of her mouth a word that reveals the omnipotence of her God comes out. He is the one who has every life in his hand.

*And as she worshiped the Lord, she said: "My heart exults in the Lord, my horn is exalted in my God. I have swallowed up my enemies; I rejoice in my victory. There is no Holy One like the Lord; there in no Rock like our God. "Speak boastfully no longer, nor let arrogance issue from your mouths. For an all-knowing God is the Lord, a God who judges deeds. The bows of the mighty are broken, while the tottering gird on strength. he well-fed hire themselves out for bread, while the hungry batten on spoil. The barren wife bears seven sons, while the mother of many languishes. "The Lord puts to death and gives life; he casts down to the nether world; he raises up again. The Lord makes poor and makes rich, he humbles, he also exalts. He raises the needy from the dust; from the ash heap he lifts up the poor, To seat them with nobles and make a glorious throne their heritage. He gives to the vower his vow, and blesses the sleep of the just. "For the pillars of the earth are the Lord’s, and he has set the world upon them. He will guard the footsteps of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall perish in the darkness. For not by strength does man prevail (1Sam 2, 1-10).*

The Virgin Mary is full of grace. The Lord is in Her. She is the tent, house and living temple of the Blessed Trinity. From a heart so full of God even her breath and her voice will be full of God. She sees herself in the present and in the future as the most pure work of God. She sees God that acts in history from his highest holiness. This song of Mary can be defined as the Amen placed to the Old Testament and as the word from which to start telling the whole New. The Old Alliance ends, the New starts and all this takes place for the great things the Almighty has accomplished for this humble servant. There is no greater work than this: making a creature the Mother of God.

*And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my saviour. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."*

If the Christian wants to speak well of his God, his heart must be the true tabernacle of his glory. For this to be able to happen, one must take away sin, reaching the elimination even of the smallest imperfections. The more you grow in grace, the more you grow in truth. The less one grows in grace and the less he grows in truth. If the disciple of Jesus speaks of his Lord, saying evil, bad, totally false, abominable, disliked, inaccurate and imperfect things, his heart is impure to the extent of the severity of falsehood and malice from which he pronounces his oracle. From the words spoken, everyone might measure the degree of purity of his heart. Certainly, that heart is never pure from whose mouth come out falsehood and lies about Christ Jesus, the Gospel, revelation, eternal life, mercy and justice.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints make us meek and humble of heart.

## WHAT, THEN, WILL THIS CHILD BE?

## Ml 3,1-4.23-24; Ps 24,4-5.8-10.14; Lk 1,57-66

### 23 DECEMBER

We can apply to all the works of God the holy principle that is revealed to us from the Book of Wisdom. From visibility you have always to come to visibility. This is a principle of reason or analogy. It is proper for man to reach the invisible through the visible path. It is the task of his humanity to reach to the Creator of all things. But this principle does not offer us the fullness of truth. It orients us toward.

*For all men were by nature foolish who were in ignorance of God, and who from the good things seen did not succeed in knowing him who is, and from studying the works did not discern the artisan; But either fire, or wind, or the swift air, or the circuit of the stars, or the mighty water, or the luminaries of heaven, the governors of the world, they considered gods. Now if out of joy in their beauty they thought them gods, let them know how far more excellent is the Lord than these; for the original source of beauty fashioned them. Or if they were struck by their might and energy, let them from these things realize how much more powerful is he who made them. For from the greatness and the beauty of created things their original author, by analogy, is seen. But yet, for these the blame is less; For they indeed have gone astray perhaps, though they seek God and wish to find him. For they search busily among his works, but are distracted by what they see, because the things seen are fair. But again, not even these are pardonable. For if they so far succeeded in knowledge that they could speculate about the world, how did they not more quickly find its Lord? (Wis 13,1-9).*

To the principle of reason the principle of faith must always be added. This is the way indicated by the wisdom of Israel. Here is an example taken from the Book of Sirach.

*Now will I recall God's works; what I have seen, I will describe. At God's word were his works brought into being; they do his will as he has ordained for them. As the rising sun is clear to all, so the glory of the Lord fills all his works; Yet even God's holy ones must fail in recounting the wonders of the Lord, Though God has given these, his hosts, the strength to stand firm before his glory. He plumbs the depths and penetrates the heart; their innermost being he understands. The Most High possesses all knowledge, and sees from of old the things that are to come: He makes known the past and the future, and reveals the deepest secrets. No understanding does he lack; no single thing escapes him. Perennial is his almighty wisdom; he is from all eternity one and the same, With nothing added, nothing taken away; no need of a counsellor for him! How beautiful are all his works! even to the spark and the fleeting vision! The universe lives and abides forever; to meet each need, each creature is preserved. All of them differ, one from another, yet none of them has he made in vain, For each in turn, as it comes, is good; can one ever see enough of their splendour? (Sir 42, 15-25).*

Zechariah sees John according to the principle of faith or revelation. People who attend these events know nothing about revelation. However, he sees something that does not belong to the ordinariness of events. He knows that there is certainly God behind this birth. He wonders, *"What will this child be? What will the Lord make of Him?"*

*When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her. When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said in reply, "No. He will be called John." But they answered her, "There is no one among your relatives who has this name." So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote, "John is his name," and all were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God. Then fear came upon all their neighbours, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea. All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, "What, then, will this child be?" For surely the hand of the Lord was with him.*

The Christian lives with two obligations. The first is to see himself in the purest faith. In this he must imitate the Virgin Mary. The second is to realize himself in faith so as to become a *"question"* for the world without faith. This happened perfectly in Jesus Christ. People, seeing his works, asked, *"Who is this?"* If this question does not arise before the Christian, then there is no Christian.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, make us true disciples of Jesus.

## MAY IT BE DONE TO ME ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD

## 2Sam 7,1-5.8b-12.14a.16; Ps 88,2-5.27.29; Rm 16,25-27; Lk 1,26-38

### 24 DECEMBER – IV SUNDAY OF ADVENT B

We can compare the vocation of Christ the Lord and that of His Mother. Every vocation is in delivering the will to the Lord. The called must be like the ground dust of the first creation. Christ Jesus in the hands of the Father made himself this dust. The Father was able to accomplish in him all of his will.

*Sacrifice and meal offering You have not desired; My ears You have opened; Burnt offering and sin offering You have not required. Then I said, “Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me.**I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart” (Ps 40 (39) 7-9). For this reason, when he came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight in.* *Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll, Behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" First he says, "Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in." These are offered according to the law. Then he says, "Behold, I come to do your will." He takes away the first to establish the second. By this "will," we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all (Heb 10,7-10).*

Even in Mary the Lord was able to give life to all his will. However, there is a substantial difference between Jesus and his Mother. The Son has given the will to the Father before the Incarnation, in eternity. The Virgin Mary gives it the moment she was visited by the Angel. If the gift is full, the use does not depend from man, but only from God. With Jesus, the Father serves himself one way and with his Mother in another way.

*In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.*

We often fall into the fears of Moses. We do not deem ourselves suitable for the mission. This is a very serious mistake. To us, the Father does not ask us to be the authors of the mission, he asks for the gift of the will, that is, of making us dust in his hands. Not even clay, but dust. Clay has already some form, dust nothing.

*Moses, however, said to the Lord, "If you please, Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past, nor recently, nor now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and tongue." The Lord said to him, "Who gives one man speech and makes another deaf and dumb? Or who gives sight to one and makes another blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Go, then! It is I who will assist you in speaking and will teach you what you are to say." Yet he insisted, "If you please, Lord, send someone else!" Then the Lord became angry with Moses and said, "Have you not your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know that he is an eloquent speaker. Besides, he is now on his way to meet you. When he sees you, his heart will be glad. You are to speak to him, then, and put the words in his mouth. I will assist both you and him in speaking and will teach the two of you what you are to do. He shall speak to the people for you: he shall be your spokesman, and you shall be as God to him. Take this staff in your hand; with it you are to perform the signs" (Ex 4,10-17).*

Today Mary declares herself dust in the hands of her God. Her God takes this dust, kneads it through his Holy Spirit and with it forms the body of his Son. The Virgin Mary gives the dust, all else is done by the Lord. Miracle of the dust!

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, make us dust for our God.

**WHO WERE BORN OF GOD**

## Is 52,7-10; Ps 97,1-6; Heb 1,1-6; Jn 1,1-18

### 25 DECEMBER

The mystery of God, of Christ Jesus, of the Holy Spirit, of the Mother of God, of the Church, of every Christian, of every ministry, of every charisma, of every vocation and of all humanity, is in all similar to that sealed book which the Apostle John speaks in the Apocalypse and that no one can open. Instead only the Lamb that was sacrificed and now is the Risen One can open it. The seals of these mysteries are opened through the revelation contained in each page of the Holy Scriptures, Ancient, and New Testament. But even Scripture is a sealed book. It opens with a special key that only the Holy Spirit can use. This key, which is only in the hands of the Spirit of the Lord, is the Prologue of the Gospel according to John. He knows the mystery the one to whom the Spirit gives the knowledge of the Prologue and to the extent that it is given. For this reason, every day every believer in Christ, in God and in the Holy Spirit, must ask the Spirit to give him this science and knowledge, otherwise Scripture will remain sealed and all the mystery unknown. What Jesus says of the Father, it must also be said of the Holy Spirit and of his revelation.

*"I give praise to you, 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 the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him (Mt 11,25-27).*

It is not of great luminaries, professors, doctors, masters, men of thought and science the faculty of entering with their minds in this *"Prologue sealed with seven seals."* Who has to open it, who can open it is only the Spirit of God. In humility we put ourselves in prayer and ask Him to open it for us. From this opening is the truth of every mystery. Today, it seems that this *"Book"* is also closed to the great *"theorists"* of the new religion, a true mix of unimportant, marginal elements excluding the essential elements that are the truth of God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Church, grace and regeneration. This is happening because the superb man has taken away God as the true heart of faith and religion and has put himself on the throne in his place.

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.*

The Catholic Church today is also placed before a choice. Either she puts this *"Sealed Book"* at the centre of her faith and her evangelizing mission, or she will be condemned to give her voice to propagate falsity about God, about herself, about humanity, the present and the eternal future. If the Church wants to be faithful to her mandate, she must put Christ at the centre of every mystery. It is from the mystery of Christ that God, His creation, man, visible, invisible, time, eternity and the same Church can be known in the fullness of truth and light. A Church that excludes Christ from faith and religion is the greatest seeder of despair.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, make full light on Christ Jesus.

## AS A WITNESS BEFORE THEM AND THE PAGANS

## At 6,8-10.12; 7,54-60; Ps 30,3-4.6-8a.16-17; Mt 10,17-22

### 26 DECEMBER

In the New Testament we change the "parameters" of the engagement. In the Old Testament one was engaged for the blessing. The Commandments were observed and the Lord was made the guarantor of every blessing. He made himself abundance of life for his faithful.

*"Thus, then, shall it be: if you continue to heed the voice of the Lord, your God, and are careful to observe all his commandments which I enjoin on you today, the Lord, your God, will raise you high above all the nations of the earth. When you hearken to the voice of the Lord, your God, all these blessings will come upon you and overwhelm you: "May you be blessed in the city, and blessed in the country! "Blessed be the fruit of your womb, the produce of your soil and the offspring of your livestock, the issue of your herds and the young of your flocks! "Blessed be your grain bin and your kneading bowl!  "May you be blessed in your coming in, and blessed in your going out! "The Lord will beat down before you the enemies that rise up against you; though they come out against you from but one direction, they will flee before you in seven. The Lord will affirm his blessing upon you, on your barns and on all your undertakings, blessing you in the land that the Lord, your God, gives you. Provided that you keep the commandments of the Lord, your God, and walk in his ways, he will establish you as a people sacred to himself, as he swore to you; so that, when all the nations of the earth see you bearing the name of the Lord, they will stand in awe of you. The Lord will increase in more than goodly measure the fruit of your womb, the offspring of your livestock, and the produce of your soil, in the land which he swore to your fathers he would give you. The Lord will open up for you his rich treasure house of the heavens, to give your land rain in due season, blessing all your undertakings, so that you will lend to many nations and borrow from none. The Lord will make you the head, not the tail, and you will always mount higher and not decline, as long as you obey the commandments of the Lord, your God, which I order you today to observe carefully; not turning aside to the right or to the left from any of the commandments which I now give you, in order to follow other gods and serve them (Dt 28,1-14).*

In the New Testament, the engagement is for the cross on earth and for glory in blessed eternity. Today, we give life to Christ the Lord, placing it entirely in service of his truth, his mystery and his cross, becoming crucified in him and for Him and He will welcome us tomorrow in the eternal dwellings, giving us today the joy of serving him with great love, in an obedience that knows no limit. Jesus does not know any other rules of engagement. Our life today to Him, so that He gives us all his life, today as a Crucifix, tomorrows of infinite and eternal glory. No Christian might ever change these rules. He puts rules, not us. To us not the freedom, but the will to welcome or reject them, but not the possibility or the ability to modify, personalize, alter, or erase them. This power has not been given to anyone.

*But beware of people, for they will hand you over to courts and scourge you in their synagogues, and you will be led before governors and kings for my sake as a witness before them and the pagans. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. You will be given at that moment what you are to say. For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will hand over brother to death, and the father his child; children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved.*

The Christian evil, the destroying cancer of true faith in Christ, is precisely in the change of the rules of engagement or even in their cancellation, reducing the faith in Christ Jesus in an external belonging to Him, made only of the celebration of some sacrament. However, having cancelled the rules of engagement, the Christian declared baptism, confirmation, the Eucharist, and every other sacrament useless, reaching far beyond the deletion even of the Commandments which are the first foundation for edification of the social man. Today we are at the jungle man. The smartest devours the less smart, the wisest the least wise, the strongest the less powerful, the richest slays the poor. From the destruction of the rules of engagement we are building the hyena, jackal, lion, tiger, panther, leopard man, always looking for whom to devour. The social man is from the Commandments. The communion man is from the Eucharist.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, make us believe in the engagement.

## THEN THE OTHER DISCIPLE ALSO WENT IN

## 1Jn 1,1-4; Ps 96,1-2.5-6.11-12; Jn 20,2-8

### 27 DECEMBER

Is the empty tomb enough to John and the Church to believe in the resurrection? To know that Christ is risen the sepulchre without the body of Christ is enough. To live faith in the resurrection, to walk in history as resurrected with Christ, in Christ and for Christ, the empty tomb is no longer sufficient. It is necessary for the disciple to be together sustained by the truth of Christ, but also by Christ his truth, his life, his light, his word of eternal life, his body, his resurrection, his everlasting guide and support. This twofold way is revealed to us by the Apostle John in His First Letter and in the Apocalypse. To the truth of Christ must always be added Christ truth, life and way.

*What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we looked upon and touched with our hands concerns the Word of life - for the life was made visible; we have seen it and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was made visible to us - what we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; for our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing this so that our joy may be complete (1Jn 1,1-7).*

*John, to the seven churches in Asia: grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, who has made us into a kingdom, priests for his God and Father, to him be glory and power forever (and ever). Amen. Behold, he is coming amid the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him. All the peoples of the earth will lament him. Yes. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "the one who is and who was and who is to come, the almighty." I, John, your brother, who share with you the distress, the kingdom, and the endurance we have in Jesus, found myself on the island called Patmos because I proclaimed God's word and gave testimony to Jesus. I was caught up in spirit on the Lord's day and heard behind me a voice as loud as a trumpet, which said, "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea." Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and when I turned, I saw seven gold lamp stands and in the midst of the lamp stands one like a son of man, wearing an ankle-length robe, with a gold sash around his chest. The hair of his head was as white as white wool or as snow, and his eyes were like a fiery flame. His feet were like polished brass refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing water. In his right hand he held seven stars. A sharp two-edged sword came out of his mouth, and his face shone like the sun at its brightest. When I caught sight of him, I fell down at his feet as though dead. He touched me with his right hand and said, "Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last, the one who lives. Once I was dead, but now I am alive forever and ever. I hold the keys to death and the netherworld. Write down, therefore, what you have seen, and what is happening, and what will happen afterwards. This is the secret meaning of the seven stars you saw in my right hand, and of the seven gold lamp stands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lamp stands are the seven churches (Rev 1,4-20).*

Truth of Christ and Christ Truth are one thing. Having lost Christ the truth today we are condemning us to live without any of Jesus Christ’s truths.

*So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed.*

Today, it urges to the Church that every child finds the truth of Christ to become his truth in history, but also that he finds Christ the truth again to be visible image of Him, the Crucified on the path to the eternal glory of the heavens. Christ is all for the Church.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, make us one thing with Christ.

## RACHEL WEEPING FOR HER CHILDREN

## 1Jn 1,5-2,2; Ps 123,2-5.7-8; Mt 2,13-18

### 28 DECEMBER

Telling of the martyrdom of all the children of two years and younger slain at Herod's command, the Evangelist Matthew reminds that Jeremiah's prophecy is fulfilled in this massacre. In the days of the prophet, Jerusalem, symbolized by Rachel's death in giving birth to Benjamin, cries for her sons who have been kidnapped and dragged like slaves into Babylon. The Lord consoles his people. He tells Judas that his children will return. Never might hope die with the Lord because He is its Creator at all times. It suffices his decision and Jerusalem will again be the city of life.

*Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, proclaim it on distant coasts, and say: He who scattered Israel, now gathers them together, he guards them as a shepherd his flock. The Lord shall ransom Jacob, he shall redeem him from the hand of his conqueror. Shouting, they shall mount the heights of Zion, they shall come streaming to the Lord’s blessings: The grain, the wine, and the oil, the sheep and the oxen; They themselves shall be like watered gardens, never again shall they languish. Then the virgins shall make merry and dance, and young men and old as well. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will console and gladden them after their sorrows. I will lavish choice portions upon the priests, and my people shall be filled with my blessings, says the Lord. Thus says the Lord: In Ramah is heard the sound of moaning, of bitter weeping! Rachel mourns her children, she refuses to be consoled because her children are no more. Thus says the Lord: Cease your cries of mourning, wipe the tears from your eyes. The sorrow you have shown shall have its reward, says the Lord, they shall return from the enemy's land. There is hope for your future, says the Lord; your sons shall return to their own borders. I hear, I hear Ephraim pleading: You chastised me, and I am chastened; I was an untamed calf. If you allow me, I will return, for you are the Lord, my God. I turn in repentance; I have come to myself, I strike my breast; I blush with shame, I bear the disgrace of my youth. Is Ephraim not my favoured son, the child in whom I delight? Often as I threaten him, I still remember him with favour; My heart stirs for him, I must show him mercy, says the Lord. Set up road markers, put up guideposts; Turn your attention to the highway, the road by which you went. Turn back, O virgin Israel, turn back to these your cities. How long will you continue to stray, rebellious daughter? The Lord has created a new thing upon the earth: the woman must encompass the man with devotion (Jer 31,10-22).*

What is the real message that must come to the world of suffering by quoting this prophecy? Death, pain and weeping are not the man's grave. Not even the cross, any cross, is the end or conclusion of our lives. Suffering, pain, weeping and death are the way for the Lord to come down with power and to create true hope in every heart. At the same time, the Evangelist Matthew reminds us that the martyrdom of every child, today, in a special way, the martyrdom of every innocent being in the mother's womb, in the name of an absurd, inhuman, foolish and ignorant right, fruit of selfishness and negation of the dignity of the human person; is not only the work of man's wickedness, iniquity and cruelty, but also of the non knowledge of God's truth. If a mother knew God, she certainly would not kill her creature.

*When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him." Joseph rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod, that what the Lord had said through the prophet might be fulfilled, "Out of Egypt I called my son." When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the magi, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the magi. Then was fulfilled what had been said through Jeremiah the prophet: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more."*

Like the martyrdom of children in Bethlehem is the work of the non knowledge of God, so too the billions of abortions of our day is the work of the non knowledge of God, of the true God, from which is the knowledge of man and of man according to his Creator.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, help us to know Christ.

## A LIGHT FOR REVELATION TO THE GENTILES

## 1Jn 2,3-11; Ps 95,1-3.6; Lk 2,22-35

### 29 DECEMBER

Not only is Jesus the Lord from the Father from eternity, but also from eternity is for the Father. He comes onto our land, in the flesh, not for himself, but for the Father. He comes to make known to every man the truth of his Father, his eternal love, his mercy, fidelity, justice and compassion, but also the right judgment according to the Word revealed by Him, manifested and proclaimed to men. This divine and human essence, in eternity before time, in time and after time, must never be forgotten. Without the light of Christ that enlightens the Father, the Father will never be known and never might he be adored in spirit and truth. Without the light of Christ either will he be a God known only in part or only a God of whom we speak only for hearsay. Prophecy proclaims the Messiah in the garments of him who brings the Father's light to the Gentiles.

*Hear me, O coastlands, listen, O distant peoples. The Lord called me from birth, from my mother's womb he gave me my name. He made of me a sharp-edged sword and concealed me in the shadow of his arm. He made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me. You are my servant, he said to me, Israel, through whom I show my glory. Though I thought I had toiled in vain, and for nothing, uselessly, spent my strength, Yet my reward is with the Lord, my recompense is with my God. For now the Lord has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb, That Jacob may be brought back to him and Israel gathered to him; And I am made glorious in the sight of the Lord, and my God is now my strength! It is too little, he says, for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth. Thus says the Lord, the redeemer and the Holy One of Israel, To the one despised, whom the nations abhor, the slave of rulers: When kings see you, they shall stand up, and princes shall prostrate themselves Because of the Lord who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel who has chosen you. Thus says the Lord: In a time of favour I answer you, on the day of salvation I help you, To restore the land and allot the desolate heritages, Saying to the prisoners: Come out! To those in darkness: Show yourselves! Along the ways they shall find pasture, on every bare height shall their pastures be. They shall not hunger or thirst, nor shall the scorching wind or the sun strike them; For he who pities them leads them and guides them beside springs of water. I will cut a road through all my mountains, and make my highways level. See, some shall come from afar, others from the north and the west, and some from the land of Syene (Is 49,1-12).*

Jesus is necessary to know God, how is it that many sons of the Church today skip Christ, deny the need of his light, want a God without the One that illuminates him and shows all his eternal beauty of creation and redemption? This happens when thought is no longer illuminated by the light of Christ the Lord. Disavowing and denying his light, one falls into the darkness of hell. And indeed, many of the Church's children today speak from the darkness of Satan and not from the light of Christ.

*When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord," and to offer the sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted (and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."*

Either we put Christ's light on the candlestick of the Church, or there will be darkness.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, make us from the light of Christ Jesus.

## AND THE FAVOUR OF GOD WAS UPON HIM

## 1 Jn 2,12-17; Ps 95,7-9.10; Lk 2,36-40

### 30 DECEMBER

Jesus in his Person of Only Son, Eternal Word of the Father is true God and true man. He is forever, from the beginning and without any start, true God by generation from the Father. He is a true man, because he was generated in the pure breast of the Virgin Mary by the work of the Holy Spirit. Being a true man he is also subject to the law of man. If he always wants to be and remain a true, man he must be fed with the grace and truth that come from God. He as true God is grace and truth. As a true man he must ask God to always feed him on grace and truth, through his Holy Spirit. Without the grace and the truth that come from God, in which the true man must always dwell, from light one passes into darkness, from truth into falsehood and from holiness into sin. Paul, a true Master in humanity, says that everything in him and in the Church is from the grace. Whoever wants to grow in humanity must never stop growth in grace.

*But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by that one person's transgression the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one person Jesus Christ overflow for the many (Rm 5, 15). According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But each one must be careful how he builds upon it (1Cor 3, 10). Working together, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain (2Cor 6, 1). We want you to know, brothers, of the grace of God that has been given to the churches of Macedonia (2Cor 8, 1). I do not nullify the grace of God; for if justification comes through the law, then Christ died for nothing (Gal 2, 21). that has come to you. Just as in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing, so also among you, from the day you heard it and came to know the grace of God in truth (Col 1, 6). For the grace of God has appeared, saving all (Tt 2, 11). but we do see Jesus "crowned with glory and honour" because he suffered death, he who "for a little while" was made "lower than the angels," that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone (Heb 2, 9).*

If Jesus, true God, is enveloped by the grace of God, can we think we can spend a single day without grace? Can we believe that without grace anything of true humanity remains in us? As soon as we leave the grace, instantly we enter into a death process that is the total dissolution of our true humanity. That today, the Christian no longer lives under the tent of grace is revealed by the foolish and ignorant words on Christ, on God, on the Church, on man, on animals and on the whole of creation. But it is also brought to light by his wicked and evil actions that so much physical and spiritual death create daily in society. We can quite clearly say it: today we are building a society whose end is just death. To be clearer: today, society is working to destroy and erase itself from the face of the earth. Decisions such as abortion, marriage between people of the same sex, non-getting married for selfish purposes and worldly success and renunciation of procreation, are the result of the absence of God's grace on us. Grace is the source of life. You get out of grace, you keep yourself away from it and you rush into death, by giving death.

*There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.*

A severe warning goes to the Church of God and to many of her sons. Either we put back at the centre of our life Christ, his grace, his truth, his light and his eternal life, or there will be no future for us. I do not say a future for the Church, but a future for humanity. A Church that does not live on grace for the grace is no longer a source of life for the world.

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, make us dwell in the grace of God.

## I MUST BE IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE

## Sir 3,3-7.14-17; Ps 127,1-5; Lk 2,41-52

### 31 DECEMBER – HOLY FAMILY B

Jesus is from the Father, in the Father and for the Father. This is his truth. He is not but from the Father. He does not live except in the Father. Nothing he works except for the Father. He comes to our land to teach every man how to deal with the things of the Father, or rather how to live only for the Father until death and death by the Cross.

*Every high priest is taken from among men and made their representative before God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant and erring, for he himself is beset by weakness and so, for this reason, must make sin offerings for himself as well as for the people. No one takes this honour upon himself but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. In the same way, it was not Christ who glorified himself in becoming high priest, but rather the one who said to him: "You are my son; this day I have begotten you"; just as he says in another place: "You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." In the days when he was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him (Heb 5,1-10).*

One is for the Father being always from his will. If the Father says to stop in Jerusalem, He stops. If the Father commands him to enter the temple, He will go there. If the Father tells him to speak with the Masters, he talks and converses, but always according to the will expressed to him by the Father in the Holy Spirit. The Gospel according to John always reveals this truth of Jesus: He is always from the Word, the Will, the Father's Voice and for the Father. Nothing is from him in his mission. Everything is from the Father, according to the times and moments determined by the Father. From the Father for the Father.

*Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work (Jn 4, 34). "I cannot do anything on my own; I judge as I hear, and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my own will but the will of the one who sent me (Jn 5, 30). Because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me (Jn 6, 38). And this is the will of the one who sent me, that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it (on) the last day (Jn 6, 39). For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him (on) the last day" (Jn 6, 40). Whoever chooses to do his will shall know whether my teaching is from God or whether I speak on my own (Jn 7, 17). We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him (Gv 9, 31).*

Jesus was incarnated to be always from the Father, never from himself, never from the devil and never from others. Mary and Joseph learn this truth of Jesus with great pain, in suffering. But did not Jesus endure even the heavy cross, to be from the Father?

*Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced (in) wisdom and age and favour before God and man.*

This is education, training: teaching how to be from the Father. If this education is not imparted, one is always from the devil, from Satan. But can a society that is entirely from Satan teach its children how to always be from God?

Virgin Mary, Mother of Redemption, Angels and Saints, always make us from God and for him.