

## SUNDAY MASS

### ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

*O people of Zion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.*

**FIRST READING:** Baruch 5:1-9.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** Psalm 126.

### RESPONSE:

*What great deeds the Lord has worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.*

1. When the Lord brought back the exiles of Sion, we thought we were dreaming, then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our tongues, songs of joy. *R*
2. Then the nations themselves said, 'What great deeds the Lord worked for them!' What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad. *R*
3. Bring back our exiles, O Lord, as streams in the south. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. *R*
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, bearing seed for the sowing; they come back, they come back with a song, bearing their sheaves. *R*

**SECOND READING:** Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

*Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.*

**GOSPEL:** Luke 3:1-6.

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

*Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.*

## THE WEEK AHEAD

# Live the Word

### Mon 6 Dec (St Nicholas, B)

Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 85; Luke 5:17-26

Faith and love of God gives us a deep sense of inner safety. God, in the person of Jesus, who suffered and died on the cross, can give us the courage to face whatever dangers the world may bring our way.

### Tue 7 Dec St Ambrose, BD

Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 96; Matthew 18:12-14

In our first reading, Isaiah paints for us a vision so beautiful, so full, so loving, it puts us right into Bethlehem. Although Advent is a time of preparation and repentance it is also a time filled with joy.

### Wed 8 Dec IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Genesis 3:9-15.20; Psalm 98; Luke 1:26-38

God is good. God's mercy is boundless. Because of our share in God's goodness, we have the opportunity to one day to be free, like Mary, of the ravages of sin.

### Thu 9 Dec (St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin)

Isaiah 41:13-20; Psalm 145; Matthew 11:11-15

Our Lady of Guadalupe, dressed as a young Mayan woman and appearing to St Juan Diego, helped bring about the conversion of the New World. She did not appear to the high and mighty but to a simple peasant.

### Fri 10 Dec (Our Lady of Loreto)

Isaiah 48:17-19; Psalm 1; Matthew 11:16-19

How well do I know my own heart? We think we know ourselves, but often our ideas of what is good for us are confused by subliminal desires or selfish urges that we keep hidden, even from ourselves.

### Sat 11 Dec (St Damasus I, P)

Sirach 48:1-4.9-11; Psalm 80; Matthew 17:10-13

Often we struggle to discern the right thing to do. Sometimes we just need to turn the situation over in our hearts... pay attention... pray about it... and ask God to open our hearts to his word.

### Sun 12 Dec 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Zephaniah 3:14-18; Isaiah 12:2-6; Luke 3:10-18

Growth in faith is a hard and sometimes painful thing for which to wait. It is a slow process... which often requires having to stretch ourselves. We cannot rush the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

(KEY: **SOLEMNITY**; FEAST; Memorial; (Optional Memorial) B=Bishop; D=Doctor; P=Pope)

# Catholic Link

## THE "O" ANTIPHONS

2nd Sunday in Advent • Year C  
Divine Office: Week II • 5 December 2021

# O Come, O Wisdom

**C**atholic Link continues with its 2021 Advent theme of the "O Antiphons", considered to be the Church's oldest Advent prayers on record. Last week we reflected on "O come, Emmanuel". Today we pray with the antiphon,

O come, O Wisdom from on high, come. While reaching end to end in sweetness ordering all, Teach us, O mighty Saviour, discerning judgment.

God knows (if we sometimes don't) how desperately the world needs wisdom in these days. There is

a madness to human discourse, a craziness to conspiracy theories, a stupidity to many tweets. Ideas without factual merit or careful verification go viral on social media. And even when we do have a reasonable level of knowledge, we often don't have the wisdom to use knowledge properly.

Wisdom is a divine gift. It requires grace working with human nature and human experience. Think of the legend of Solomon. When he became king after David, God asked him if he wanted wealth or wisdom. Solomon chose wisdom (hence the linguistic expression, "You'll need the wisdom of Solomon for that.") He chose wisdom and prayed for it:

I prayed, and understanding was given me; I called upon God, and the spirit of wisdom came to me. I preferred her to sceptres and thrones, and I accounted wealth as nothing in comparison with her. Neither did I liken to her any priceless gem because all gold is but a little sand in her sight, and silver will be accounted as clay before her. I loved her more than health and beauty, and I chose to have her rather than light, because her radiance never ceases. All good things came to me along with her, and in her hands uncounted wealth. I

rejoiced in them all, because wisdom leads them; but I did not know that she was their mother. I learned without guile, and I impart without grudging; I do not hide her wealth,

for it is an unending treasure for people; those who get wisdom obtain friendship with God, commended for the gifts that come from instruction. (Wisdom 7:7-14)

What can we notice about this beautiful text? The pronouns are all feminine. Wisdom ("sophia" in Greek, "hokmah" in Hebrew) is a feminine term.

Sorry guys! Wisdom is a feminine attribute of God at the beginning of creation, as another text describes it,

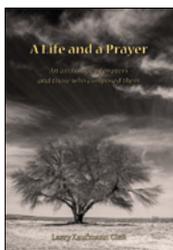
When he established the heavens, I was there, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race. (cf. Proverbs 8:27-31)

Of course, we are not going to become all polemical about wisdom as a feminine noun, although there may be some wisdom in acknowledging here the special insights of mothers and grandmothers. Rather, we want to tap into the spirit of this Advent antiphon which yearns and begs for the Spirit's gift of wisdom which we so desperately need as we navigate our way through the rough seas of swirling ideas and information, and the waves of stupidity and madness. Without wisdom, we'll drown.

O come, O Wisdom from on High!



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The lives of saints and other holy people show us what ordinary human beings, aided by the grace of God, have managed to accomplish. They give us examples of greatness and nobility of spirit. This booklet is an anthology of lives of some great people and the prayers they composed. Written by Fr Larry Kaufmann CSsR.

