

Advent Reflections

December 10, 2019



I always use to think of Christmas as a time to give gifts and a time to put up trees. I would get a warm fuzzy feeling in my heart whenever I knew that Christmas was right around the corner and I would look forward to some Christmas snow. I didn't really know the meaning of Christmas but whenever I thought of it the first thing that came to my mind was snow, Santa Clause, and reindeer.

When I started my journey with Christ, I had a new view of Christmas. I began to see Christmas as a day to remember Christ's birth; the birth of the One who died for our sins. Christmas is not really a day to focus on ourselves - on what type of gifts we would receive from others. The greatest gift that we got on the first Christmas was Jesus. The greatest gift that we have every day and forever is Jesus. Jesus, the One who took the punishment for what I did and what I will do. Jesus, the One that I can confide in. Jesus, the Son of God who humbled himself on the cross and portrayed the greatest love. Christmas is about **Christ** and His eternal love for us.

Joyce Blaise,

Class of 2023, Undecided

Reading 1 [IS 40:1-11](#)

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 people 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 flesh 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."

Go up onto a high mountain,
Zion, herald of glad tidings;
Cry out at the top of your voice,
Jerusalem, herald of good news!
Fear not to cry out
and say to the cities of Judah:
Here is your God!
Here comes with power
the Lord GOD,
who rules by his strong arm;
Here is his reward with him,
his recompense before him.

Like a shepherd he feeds his flock;
in his arms he gathers the lambs,
Carrying them in his bosom,
and leading the ewes with care.

Responsorial Psalm [PS 96:1-2, 3 AND 10AC, 11-12, 13](#)

R. (see Isaiah 40:10ab) The Lord our God comes with power.

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all you lands.
Sing to the LORD; bless his name;
announce his salvation, day after day.

R. The Lord our God comes with power.

Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.
Say among the nations: The LORD is king;
he governs the peoples with equity.

R. The Lord our God comes with power.

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;
let the sea and what fills it resound;
let the plains be joyful and all that is in them!
Then let all the trees of the forest rejoice.

R. The Lord our God comes with power.

They shall exult before the LORD, for he comes;
for he comes to rule the earth.

He shall rule the world with justice
and the peoples with his constancy.

R. The Lord our God comes with power.

Alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The day of the Lord is near;
Behold, he comes to save us.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel [MT 18:12-14](#)

Jesus said to his disciples:

"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."