

► Sunday, November 30, 2008, First Sunday of Advent

Is 63:16-17, 19; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; I Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

Week #15: Main Theme: God's mercy and our need for the sacraments.

Did today's readings make you feel a little uncomfortable? That's good; they should! We are reminded today both of God's great mercy and of our great need for it. God's mercy: "God is faithful," Paul reminds us; the Father will keep us "firm to the end, irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ." And our need for God's mercy: "all our good deeds are like polluted rags." We need, as Jesus exhorts us, to watch, to be alert, to understand both our sinfulness and God's desire to forgive it. "Lord, make us turn to you," we prayed in the psalm. Advent is an especially favorable time to turn to the God the Father in the sacrament of Confession, the forgiving grace of which enables the Eucharist to bear fruit fully in our lives. Let us allow the Father to forgive our sins and to strengthen us. Alone, we cannot be faithful to God's ways. But, by his grace, "we shall be saved."

Bulletin quote: "The spouses' union achieves the twofold end of marriage: the good of the spouses themselves and the transmission of life. These two meanings or values of marriage cannot be separated without altering the couple's spiritual life and compromising the goods of marriage and the future of the family."

Catechism of the Catholic Church, #2363