

### **First Sunday of Advent Year B. 3rd December 2023. Be watchful and be Alert.**

Today, the Church Celebrates the first Sunday of Advent—the beginning of the Christians preparations for the coming of the Messiah, the king of the universe. Just as Lent is to Easter, so is Advent to Christmas. We shall have a solid four weeks of preparation, which will culminate on the Eve of Christmas. In Advent, we are not only preparing for the birth of Jesus Christ but His second coming also. Which is why, our liturgical mood changes, we are called to embark on spiritual exercises, to do penance, and be awake. Like the period of Lent the liturgical color of this season is Purple. Which signified penance as well as royalty; to do penance so that our hearts may be cleansed so that the Messiah will come and reign in our hearts.

The first reading tells us how the people acknowledged their shortcomings and there is no one to turn to except God; they were longing to go back to their Father, whom without they are nothing. They acknowledged that God is their maker: “we are the clay, and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. In our world which darkness seems to be winning over the light. We are reminded to return to the Jesus who is the light that wins over the darkness as we have it during the summer; and the psalmist proclaimed, Lord makes us turn to you; let us see your face, and we shall be saved.

St. Paul in the second reading, made us to understand that we are not lacking anything we were given the knowledge require of us, including the spiritual gift. Let us utilize our knowledge to prepare for the second coming which Jesus in the gospel, advised his disciples to be watchful and alert. As we begin this journey of Advent, we ask the grace of God to help us humble ourselves and acknowledged our shortcomings. Through Christ our Lord.

Peace,

Fr. JINGBE Simon