

Advent Traditions

The Advent Prose

The Advent Prose is sometimes known by its Latin name 'Rorate Caeli', taken from the Prophecy of Isaiah (Isaiah 45.8), and when sung in English, translated as 'Drop down ye heavens from above.' This phrase is often sung as a refrain to the Prose which can be used at Mass or during Morning and Evening Prayer. At Mass it might be used as part of a procession or more properly between the second reading and the Gospel. The Advent Prose speaks of the longing of the prophets and patriarchs for the coming of the Messiah. Their hope and longing is the same as the Church's as we long and pray for the return of Jesus. The Advent Prose is a good text to reflect upon during Advent as it speaks profoundly about the human longing for God. Pray the words slowly and carefully, giving attention to every word, and see what God is saying to you through them.

Prayers to Remember

Make us, we beseech thee, O Lord our God, in watchfulness and eagerness to look for the coming of Christ thy Son our Lord: that when he shall come and knock, he may not find us sleeping in our sins, but watching and exulting in his praises; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Gelasian Sacramentary

From the Fathers

The river of time sweeps on, but there, like a tree planted by the water, is our Lord Jesus Christ. He became human, willing to plant himself by the river of time. If you feel yourself drifting down the rapids, lay hold of the tree; if you are caught up in the love of the world, hold on to Christ. He, for your sake, entered into time, but he did not cease to be eternal.

From 'Homilies on 1 John' by Saint Augustine of Hippo (354-430, bishop and theologian)

6th December
2020

The Second Sunday
of Advent

The Prophets



And Jesus said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and so enter into his glory? And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. (Luke 24.25-27)

As the two disciples walk towards Emmaus on the day of resurrection they talk with Jesus about the long history of God's people. He brings them to see that it's not so much that the prophets are speaking of how they will be rescued from suffering, but that they will be rescued through suffering. Jesus' assertion is that the Prophets are bearing witness to him, and that's one of the reasons why they are such good companions for us through Advent.

The word "prophet" comes from a word which means "to speak forth". They are charged with maintaining a sense of the presence and action of God, and speaking for him, even in times of national crisis and acute anxiety. Some of the prophets see Jerusalem violently destroyed and its people taken into exile, but they continue to hear God and see him at work. We will see this insight of the prophets magnified by Christ's cross. The world may do its worst, but God's purpose of love endures. How can you be a sign of that enduring love this week?

