

Scripture and Feast Day Notes

Sixth Sunday of Advent

From Today's Readings

Luke 22:24-30 At the Last Supper, on the very night Jesus would be arrested and taken to His death, the disciples are disputing who among them is the greatest. Jesus reminds them (oh, the endless patience of our Lord!) that they are not to be like the world where those in authority are considered important. Rather the greatest are those who serve humbly as He Himself was doing at their table. He commends them for being at His side; to such He promises a kingdom and a place at His table where they will dine seated on thrones (an image of the joyous fellowship possible in His presence) and judge the 12 tribes of Israel. (1 Cor 6:2-3). *Discuss/reflect: Greatness in the world is often perceived as lording it over others. Jesus teaches that greatness is in servicing others rather than ourselves. Think of a time when you felt unappreciated. How might these verses inspire you to feel otherwise?*

Hebrews 13:18-25 The epistle writer asks for his readers' prayers. The Greek verb suggests a continuous activity, so we understand they *have* been praying and will continue. He is sure he has done his utmost for them, hoping their prayers will soon bring him face-to-face with these people whom he clearly loves. He himself prays that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, continue to guide them on their journey to spiritual maturity. *Discuss/reflect: Prayerfully read 13:20-22. Now pray this in your own words and address it to a specific person.*

Isaiah 51:15-52:3 God affirms his lordship over the people of Jerusalem, asking them to wake from their spiritual torpor and remember their harsh lesson of God's judgment ("cup of wrath"). He promises to take that cup from their hand and place it that of their enemies. Awake! He exhorts them for the third time, and be strong – they are now free of their chains and redeemed. *Discuss/reflect: What six things does Zion need to do (52:1-2) as they move from chained and drunken with God's wrath to being free? How might this translate to your own life?*

The Feast of Theophany: Thursday, January 6



The Armenian Church celebrates the birth *and* baptism of Christ on the feast of *Asdvadzahaydnootyoon* on January 6. Surprisingly to us today, the birth of Jesus was of minor interest to the Early Church. The nativity of Christ was not viewed as the "birthday" of Jesus Christ the same way we tend to view birthdays; rather, the reverent emphasis was on Christ's death and resurrection (beautifully demonstrated in Armenian miniatures where the baby Jesus is always shown with a cross embedded in His halo). Yet looking back at His birth from the perspective of His death, the nativity takes on deeper meaning, not as the birthday of a person, but as the coming of salvation into this world in Jesus Christ. Good News to us! *Reflection: Read the*

cherished Christmas story as told in Luke 2:1-20. What particular detail do you "treasure and ponder in your heart" (v.19)?

Christ was born and revealed! Blessed is the revelation of Christ!

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