

COME LORD JESUS, SHOW US YOUR FACE

Come Lord Jesus! This request expresses our expectation, our deep and sincere desire to welcome Jesus our Savior. This coming of God in Jesus is the foundation of our hope, which sustains us in the trials and misfortunes that strike our humanity, wounded by so many wars, hatred and violence. Come, Lord Jesus! Teach us patience when we doubt Your presence and the building of Your Kingdom of peace, justice and love. Come and help us see the signs of this Kingdom in all the gestures of solidarity, sharing, mutual aid, listening and reconciliation that take place here and around the world. Help us to keep up our courage, as you continue to come among us.

Show us your face! In Jesus, through His word, His presence and His life, you have revealed to us, Lord, the face of a loving God. From time immemorial, human beings have wanted to see your face. Isn't this the burning, yearning desire that runs through the Scriptures, expressed so well by the Psalms and the prophets? And you, Lord Jesus, by being born in poverty and destitution, by dying stripped bare on the cross, you revealed to us the true face of God, who is not to be found in domination and omnipotence, but in fragility, weakness, tenderness and love. Again, this year, you offer us this time of Advent to better recognize your face, a face that saves, consoles, radiates joy and makes things possible.

You invite us to be a reflection of your face. How can we do this? By being a source of liberation, by living free and helping others to live free, free from fear, hatred, indifference or introversion. By consoling those who weep or who have no tears left. So many of today's atrocities and natural disasters have dried up their tears. By sowing joy and finding it in the ordinary, common things of everyday life, such as a meal shared with family or friends, a gesture of mutual aid, sharing or kindness. It's finding this joy in Jesus, who is the light in the darkness, the Day that takes over from the night. By building the Kingdom of God through sharing and solidarity with the destitute and with those who are burdened by famine, economic insecurity or the threat of violence or terror. Let us remember that we cannot simply wait and sleep our way through this world. Doesn't God make us see his face in all the efforts being made to save our planet from degradation, all the development projects sponsored by Development and Peace and Caritas International, all the health care provided by Doctors without Borders, all the gestures of support offered by Aid to the Church in Need, the Christmas Food Drive, the United Way, the Café des deux pains, Meals on Wheels, La Maisonnée, the bus for the homeless, the collection of clothing and sanitary products, and so on.

In this time of Advent, a time of conversion, expectation and vigilance, let us accept the path of tenderness and the fragility of love that will melt our resistance. Let us resolutely take the path of life that passes through trust, patience, humility, self-giving and love. In his homily at the closing Mass of the Synod on October 29, Pope Francis reminded us that loving is done through adoration and service. While insisting on the need for the Church to be a Church at the service of all, and especially the least of these, Pope Francis called on us to "fight against the idolatries of personal vanity, the thirst for success, self-assertion at all costs and greed for money".

And this can only happen, says the Pope, if we return to adoration, if the Church is adoring. In this liturgical season of Advent, let us devote time each day to intimacy with Jesus, who knows how to purify, transform and renew us through the fire of his Spirit. Only by raising our arms to God, individually and in community, only by serving through and with love, will we show the face of God to all those who, like us, want to see his Face.