

SERMON STARTER

GENEROSITY

01.12.2024



The first Sunday of Advent may not immediately bring the word generosity to mind. After all, the readings remind us of judgment to come, and getting ourselves right before God. However, from the first reading onwards, we can see the generous love of God in His desire to save those who follow Him.

One way to go on this Sunday might be to weigh our generosity against that of God. This could be a good advent discipline. At this time there will be lots of adverts on TV, radio etc. to help those in need. This would be a good time to consider how generous we are, to the church, to others, to God. This generosity can be in time, use of personal gifts and talents and in a monetary way as well.



READINGS



Jeremiah 33:14-16

In these verses the generosity of God to us is seen in His promise that He will raise up a righteous branch from the house of David. In His generosity God will show us how to live and we are always given a chance. In His promise we read that Judah and Jerusalem will live in peace. Do we seek peace ? It is a generous gift to bring peace to those in trouble.

Psalms 25:1-10



This passage from Psalm 25 is full of requests. These are made based on the promise of God's generosity in forgiving and saving people. The Psalmist requests that God will forgive them and teach them His ways. As the Psalmist writes of the generosity of God, a dependence on that help is noted. Do we trust the generosity of God in forgiving us ? Do we take His forgiveness for granted ?

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

In this reading we hear of thankfulness and we also hear of generosity. In what may seem a strange twist, we read the offer to help the believers in what they may be missing in their faith. This could sound like a rather backhanded compliment. It is almost as if the readers are being shown not only how good they are but also the way that they can be helped to be better. However, out of generosity the offer is made to support the believers. How generous are we in supporting other believers ? This can be both practical and spiritual support.



THE GOSPEL



Luke 21:25-36

In this reading we hear a prophecy or what will happen when things end. This seems far from generous when we think of all the disastrous and frightening events described. However, the generosity is seen when we consider the advice on the best ways to live.

