



Catholic Community

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

Youth Mass: 1st Friday at TBD in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Sundays at 10 a.m. in the main Sanctuary

Interfaith Community Center • Hüttenweg 46 • 14195 Berlin-Dahlem

Phone (030) 8620-3636 • Fax (030) 8620-3638

Email: allsaintsberlin@t-online.de / Website: www.all-saints.info

Facebook: All Saints Catholic Community Berlin

Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10:00-12:00

December 6th, 2020, Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Sylvester Ajunwa

- Music: Johannes Wrembek, Benilda de la Cruz, Anna Dziechciarz, Johannes Ploog, Ryan Quiming
- Lector: Rachel Ruckeis • Greeter: Heide Doblhofer • Altar Servers: Michael Oshin •
- Designated collection: All Saints •

First Reading (Is 40:1-5, 9-11)

Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made a plain, the rough country, a broad valley. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Go up on to a high mountain, Zion, herald of glad tidings; cry out at the top of your voice, Jerusalem, herald of good news! Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah: Here is your God! Here comes with power the Lord GOD, who rules by his strong arm; here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care.

Second Reading (2 Pt 3:8-14)

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day. The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay," but he is patient with you, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar and the elements will be dissolved by fire, and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.

Since everything is to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be, conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

Gospel (Mt 1:1-8)

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean countryside and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Designated collections are for special purposes in the Archdiocese of Berlin and are transferred in full. **However, in agreement with the Archdiocese, All Saints receives no financial support, so we are completely dependent upon your donations.** Please continue to donate to All Saints by using the **WHITE ENVELOPES** stamped "**ALL SAINTS FUND**" and/or transferring your donation to the Pax-Bank account written below. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!** • *Friends of All Saints e.V.*, IBAN: DE15 3706 0193 6001 6690 18, BIC: GENODED1PAX

Advent: let us keep our hope alive

"It will be all right!" one of my Jesuit confreres said when he came to breakfast a few days ago. He talked about Corona, about the vaccine, and the possibility of how this vaccine could be transported to the populations and distributed in a just way. Often, we do not agree on things in our community, but this time I can put it that way: we all hope that the pandemic will end soon. We have never hoped for anything so longingly.

Surely every one of you knows other situations in which there was great hope. It was the hope that a job would be offered, the hope that a long-cherished desire to have children would come true. Hope is what defines us as believers. What is the reason for our hope? As we are believers, it is God and his love. God who - in Jesus - sent us his Son. Jesus was a bearer of hope for many people during his lifetime, especially for ordinary people. Many liked to hear him. Jesus was only fought against and rejected by the strong, the mighty, the established and, you have to put it that way, the religious leaders. With his words and deeds, Jesus gave hope and confidence to many people. We hope that God takes part in the life of this world, that God is present in the life of the world and of humankind.

We see this in the reading from the Book of Isaiah. When Isaiah wrote these words, the Jews had just returned to Jerusalem from exile. They were convinced that exile was a punishment from God. The people felt very far from God. They believed that God had left them. Where was God in their suffering? Why did God allow that the longing for HIM lessened and grew cold? Why did God harden their heart? This is what the Israelites asked themselves. It seemed as if God himself had caused people to stop looking for him, had caused that they were no longer longing for him. Nevertheless: the people of Israel hoped, they pleaded, they prayed that God would again intervene and be present in their lives.

In the greatest distance to God, people pray. They remember that God intervenes and is present when they put their hope in him; when they turn to him; when they live according to his commandments; when they ponder his ways. The Israelites feel: "It is only our God who is so close to people. Only our God is a living God." But they also make an admission of guilt. That God is so far away for them is entirely due to their fault. They had turned away from him. But they realize that God is their Father, that they are always his creatures, called into life by their God. They feel that they owe their lives to God. The Israelites hope that God will give them salvation once again, that He will turn to them anew.

Basically, these are also questions that are asked today, in our time, at the end of 2020. Isaiah's words can also strengthen the hope in God we have in us. Our life, too, should be determined by hope and confidence in the face of any alarmism and pessimism.

Let's take a look at life in 2020. In addition to Corona, we are concerned with the wars and hunger that exist in the world. How many times have I heard that this world is falling apart right now! When it comes to climate protection, a lot of people believe that it's 5 past 12. In a haunting and emphatic encyclical, Pope Francis recommended climate protection and the preservation of creation. We have to live in such a way that this world remains suitable for living, remains livable. To do this, we need to go back to our faith in God. In us, our fellow human beings should recognize what we hope for, should recognize what we stick to. That is: to God! To his love! God made this world. He gave us the commandments as a guide. We have to reconsider and remember them. Those who believe in God will always have reason to hope, despite all the threats we are currently facing. Because God comes and he will redeem this world. He will give us eternal life, salvation, eternal joy.

Paul also wishes this salvation, this experience to the Christian community in Corinth. In his letter he writes: "Grace to you and peace from God our Father". The grace, the loving attention of God is promised to the Corinthians. In his wish for 'peace', Paul wishes the Corinthians happiness and well-being through God. "Peace" is the translation of "shalom". To live in "shalom" meant to be one with God. This loving care from God is the basis of life for our actions in this world. This hope can be a source of strength and energy for our lives. But this foundation of our lives has to be acquired again and again. We must strive honestly to achieve it and to keep it. We must not forget that God is faithful. Communion with Jesus is not a possession that one holds in one's hand. People can withdraw themselves from God again and again. People can forget the hope that comes from believing in God.

Let us keep our hope alive in us, let us nourish it, and let us live on it!

Cf. <https://predigtforum.com/> 1st Sunday of Advent 2020

In All Saints on Hüttenweg there will be three Holy Masses at Christmas:

1. Christmas Eve, Thursday, **Dec 24, at 8:30 p.m.**
2. Christmas Eve, Thursday, **Dec 24, at 10 p.m.** (filling up fast)
3. Christmas Day, Friday, **Dec 25, at 10 a.m.**

The mass on Christmas Day will especially address children, since we cannot offer a Christmas pageant this year.

Please register until Sunday, Dec.20, for Christmas with name, address and phone number and the number of people coming with you for the desired day and time by replying to allsaintsberlin@t-online.de, unless you have already registered in church.