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Preparing for the Coming of Lord

CCI · 26 November 2023

READINGS
Old Testament : Hos. 10:12-15

The days including the four Sundays before Christmas are called advent season. The first Advent Sunday is calculated as the last Sunday in the month of November. The English word advent has come from the Latin word adventus which means ‘coming’. In Greek language the word Parousia is used to mean the coming of Christ. During this advent season the coming of Christ is being meditated upon. In some of the western churches four different types of candles are being lit. The candle lighted on the first Sunday is called the candle of hope. Christmas gives a message of hope – the people walked in darkness and have seen a great light (Is. 9:2). The candle lighted on the second Sunday is called the candle of Bethlehem. The prophet Micah prophesied that though Bethlehem was the smallest province of Judah, the one who would become the ruler of Israel will come out of this place (Mic. 5:2). Bethlehem is the symbol of humility. The entrance of the nativity church at Bethlehem is very short. One has to bow down his head and enter into it. Only through humility one can meet the meek Jesus. Christmas is the symbol of humility and simplicity. The candle lighted on the third Sunday is called the candle of joy. Some churches call this the candle of shepherds also. Christmas gives the message of joy to all the people (Lk. 2:10). The fourth candle is called the candle of the angel lighted on the fourth Sunday. The announcement of the angel to Mary is the message for that day. Angel replied to Mary, “Nothing is impossible to God” (Lk. 1:26-38). Christmas gives such an auspicious and optimistic message.

Prayer

Almighty God, who restores all things in your beloved Son, Jesus our Lord, Sanctify our hearts and minds so that we may be prepared for the coming of the Lord. Help us to be like the wise virgins, ever vigilant and ready to meet your Son, the head of the Church. Let the whole creation be renewed and rejuvenated through Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God world without end. Amen.