

Advent Calendar: Day 12

The reflections for this week are centered around the readings for this Sunday's texts
Jeremiah 33:12-16, Romans 13:8-12, Matthew 1:18-25

Jeremiah 33:16b

"The LORD is our righteousness."

A couple of this week's devotions have centered around the "righteousness" which Joseph modeled for us. This Sunday's Old Testament text reminds us that ultimately our righteousness is given to us in the time of our Lord's arrival and work. At some point we all fail at doing all that is divinely right and graciously loving. The righteousness by which we dare approach Glory is never our own; instead it is imputed or given to us through Jesus. For as much as our Advent devotions center around our preparations, the truth is that our salvation is in Jesus (he saves) and whatever preparations we do, in their most glorious successes, only help us to see that Jesus is our righteousness through grace.

While it may seem right to say Christmas is the season of giving, it is even more right to acknowledge that Christmas is the season of receiving. In advent we prepare to receive the gift of Jesus at his birth. In receiving Jesus we receive God's love, Christ's righteousness, the Spirit's presence, new life, and salvation. Take time to ponder the gift that has been given and receive it with the awe, joy, and gratitude befitting the blessing given to us.