
4 Thursday

THURSDAY, 1st Week of Advent

Isaiah 26: 1 - 6
Ps 117: 1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27
Matthew 7: 21, 24- 27

“Not everyone who says to me ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the kingdom of heaven”. And perhaps we might also say that not everyone who sings Christmas songs and talks of peace on earth and all the ‘sentimental’ things of Christmastime will enter the kingdom of heaven. Something more than words and talk are needed. As St Ignatius famously observed in his *Exercises*, “love shows itself more in deeds than in words”. Indeed, God’s love shows itself in the actions of sending Jesus to be born a human being and share our human life and all its sufferings and joys. So it’s important not just to listen to Jesus’ words but to act on them. to do and live and behave in conformity with His words and ways. He himself used a memorable image to describe the difference between people who act on His words and those who don’t ---- the image of building a house on either solid or shifty foundations. We’ll be choosing solid, rock, foundations if we take His words seriously, act on them and rely in trust on Him, whatever storms and winds life may bring. Being content with something less than solid foundations is foolish and short-sighted, and in the end is a complete loss. The rock we’re invited to build on, the foundation-stone of our celebrating the coming of Christ, is the Lord Himself, the eternal Rock that Isaiah talks about. May we build by acting on His words; may this Advent and Christmastime be an experience of solid building based on listening to the Word, and sharing the Christmas love-gift with people and the world around us.

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