

Homily based on the readings from November 28, 2025 (Daniel 7.2-14; Luke 21.29-33)

Living in this part of the country, we have the opportunity to experience the fullness of four seasons: vibrant springs, fruitful summers, breathtaking autumns, and frigid winters. Each of us may have our own favorite season, but all four are necessary to maintain the balance and harmony of the natural world. If we skipped any of the seasons, many plants would fail to flower and many animals would go hungry.

As we all know, this coming weekend marks the beginning of a new season – not with respect to temperature or weather, but relating to the life of the Church. Advent is the first season of our liturgical calendar because it represents the beginning of our journey with Jesus. All the other seasons that come afterward – Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, and Easter – are vitally important to our lives as Christians, just as winter, spring, summer, and fall are all essential to the natural world. Each season represents a different phase in Jesus' life – his birth, his

earthly ministry, his death, his Resurrection – and likewise a different aspect of our relationship with him. All of these themes are crucial to our understanding of Christ, although we benefit from focusing on one at a time. Just as we would not want to experience winter and summer simultaneously, it is helpful to have a clear dividing line between Advent and Easter.

We can also think about human history as being divided into seasons. Saint Augustine identified six ages of the world, the first encompassing the period from Adam to Noah and the sixth beginning with the birth of Christ and lasting through the present day. The sixth age, the one that is currently taking place, will only end when Christ comes again in glory to judge the living and the dead. It is the end of this age – this season of the world's history – that Jesus is describing in today's Gospel:

[W]hen you see these things happening,
know that the Kingdom of God is near. ...

Heaven and earth will pass away,

but my words will not pass away.

So what comes next – after this age of the world has ended? The answer is not really a *what* but a *who* – that *who*, of course, is none other than Jesus Christ. Unlike the other ages of the world – unlike the other seasons in our lives – the age of Christ’s kingship will endure for eternity. In the words of the Prophet Daniel:

His dominion is an everlasting dominion

that shall not be taken away,

his kingship shall not be destroyed.

Although our lives – as we experience them now – are measured in weeks and months and years, the reality to which we have all been called consists of one perfect, unchanging, everlasting day – a day during which we will *need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be our light*. Preparing for *that* reality is the true goal of Advent – and all the other seasons of our life.