

A Day by Day Spiritual Journey Through Advent  
With Deacon Chris

Wednesday of the First Week of Advent

*Light a candle and make sure it is safe and don't leave unattended.*

Pilgrimage

Church Militant

Do you ever imagine yourself as a soldier of Christ? It may be an old fashioned way of looking at ourselves but we are in a battle. The battle is between good and evil and I think it is right to use that word 'evil'. Ever since Adam and Eve ate from the tree of knowledge evil has had a foothold in the world. We are fighting against evil in all its shapes and forms. Some of the psalms talk about doing battle. It is not the strength of my bow or the use of sword that will win the battle it is with God on our side that we will get through. Perhaps that should be if we are on God's side?

The hymn '*Onward Christian Soldier comes to mind.*

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

When you created man and woman you gave them gift of free will. Through the love that show us you have never taken that away from us because you want us to follow you freely, of our own accord. May the gifts we received from you at our Baptism and Confirmation help us to use free will wisely. Through our Lord Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**Reading**

Isaiah chapter 25 verses 6 to 10

The Lord will prepare a banquet on a mountain.

Come Holy Spirit.

**Reflection**

This reading and its psalm, The Lord is my Shepherd, are frequently heard at funerals. We are treated to a vision of a banquet. Not like the one we may be thinking of for Christmas but one with the Lord. One that he has prepared for us. As one commentator puts it *a messianic banquet*.

As we go on our pilgrim way we realise that there are some stages that we pass through. In old language we are the Church Militant here on earth. When we die we are the Church Penitent. This seems a harsh thing to have to go through but when we look a bit deeper into what Isaiah is saying we realise that whilst in that state we are not deprived of God's love. The prophet is telling how God will look after us. He will wipe away tears and destroy death itself meaning the death that serious sin can cause.

St Paul says that neither death nor life will separate us from the love of God.

**Your Own Time.**

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**Rosary.** Let us remember all the people who are in purgatory that their time there will be short. Our human minds can think only in human time so we have no idea what time there actually means..

**Concluding Prayer**

You provide us with food for the journey. Never let us go without the food which was given to us by your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen

**The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**