



By [Glenn CJ Byer, MA SLD](#)

The Lord is near; in fact, he is among us if only we have eyes to see. That news alone should be enough to cause us all to rejoice. The psalm today tells us that among us is "the holy one of Israel." The second reading, which is the source of the entrance antiphon today, reminds us of God's nearness. So whether we see the Lord clearly in our midst, or as one who has yet to be made manifest, there is to be no doubt: the Lord is coming and coming to save.

That is why we take up the song of daughter Zion in the first reading. Yes, we have done wrong, but God has also removed the judgment against us and has promised to bring us home. It is a simple message, but one that we need to hear over and over again, lest we lose faith or forget.

But the message is not the end of the story. The Gospel today requires more of us than a simple nod of the head. The coming of the Lord has consequences. We need to get our house in order. The new translation of the Lectionary makes it clearer than ever before. Those who are taking what is not rightfully theirs must stop. This is not simply a mental exercise, it is not enough to examine our conscience, we need to change our lives at their deepest level. We have to become better followers of the Lord so that we will recognize him (and he will recognize us!) when he comes.

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