First Sunday of Advent (C)

Gospel text (*Lk* 21:25-28.34-36): Jesus said, “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars (…). And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand (…).”

The Liturgical Year. The centre of the Liturgy is Christ

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)
(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, this Sunday, a new Liturgical Year opens with Advent, a Season of preparation for the birth of the Lord. The Second Vatican Council, affirms that the Church "in the course of the year unfolds the whole mystery of Christ from the Incarnation and Nativity to the Ascension, to Pentecost and the expectation of the blessed hope of the Coming of the Lord". The centre of the Liturgy is Christ, around whom the Blessed Virgin Mary —closest to him— and then the martyrs and the other saints who "sing God's perfect praise in Heaven and intercede for us" revolve like the planets around the sun.

The contemporary world above all needs hope: seeing so much false security collapse, we realize that what we need most is a trustworthy hope. This is found in Christ alone.

—Jesus is "flesh" like us and "rock" like God. Whoever yearns for freedom, justice, and peace may rise again and raise his head, for in Christ liberation is drawing near.