

The Mass is Adventist

Thursday, December 18, 2008

Many Adventists do not realize how integral "the advent hope" is to Catholic worship. Among my first surprises when visiting a Catholic Church were the numerous bold references to the second coming of Christ in the Mass. I often humor myself with the probability that, on an average weekend, Roman Catholics reference the Second Coming in their congregational prayers *more frequently* than their Adventist brethren (thanks to the standardization of those prayers).

The Ordinary of the Mass explicitly references the second coming *at least twice* on weekdays, and *at least three times* on Sundays. However, most Catholics hear four references at any given mass. I have reproduced those references below. (Realize, I am omitting more generic references in the Ordinary to the future "resurrection" and the accession of "eternal life." I also excluding those references to the Second Coming in masses for the dead, and in the Proper. The readings and prayers during the Advent Season, the feast of Christ the King, etc., typically add an additional 1-3 references).



A Christian who earnestly anticipates Christ's soon coming will find no worship experience more consistently "Adventist" in orientation than the Catholic Mass.

Creed (2 of 2 approved forms)

Nicene Creed

...

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

...

I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.

Apostles Creed

...

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

...

Memorial Acclamation (2 of 3 approved forms)

We proclaim your death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

Or:

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your death, O Lord,
until you come again.

Popularly:

Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

Eucharistic Prayers (2 of 4 approved forms)

III

...

and as we look forward to his second coming,
we offer you in thanksgiving
this holy and living sacrifice.

...

IV

...

and as we await his coming in glory,
we offer you his Body and Blood,
the sacrifice acceptable to you
which brings salvation to the whole world.

...

Lord's Prayer (only form)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come

...

Priest's Conclusion (only form)

...

may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Submitted By: Hugo Mendez

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