

**Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [FDLC]**  
**Mystagogical Reflection on the Collects of the *Roman Missal***  
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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
December 2, 2012

Collect:

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,  
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ  
with righteous deeds at his coming,  
so that, gathered at his right hand,  
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.  
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.

Reflection:

The Collect (Opening Prayer) for this First Sunday of Advent is an ancient prayer that first appeared in the *Gelasian Sacramentary* of the eighth century. It was not in the Roman Missal of 1962, but was restored to use after the Second Vatican Council.

This prayer captures the imagination for it provides us with an image of the People of God running toward Christ, doing so by our good works, in hope of being gathered at his right hand. We pray for resolve and we pray that we might one day “be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.”

During this Advent Season, we long for the second coming of Christ and we long for the fullness of redemption that Christ offers us by his dying and rising. Yet, our world has not been completely redeemed, and with this knowledge we call upon God to strengthen us, to give us the desire to make straight the path of our lives by acts of charity and good works.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, strengthen my resolve to run toward you and help me to live a life of charity so that I may meet you every day in the faces of others.

Submitted by:

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