

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father:
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
 Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:
 Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
 Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
 May almighty God have mercy on us....**Amen.**

(The Gloria is omitted awaiting its Christmas Proclamation.)

OPENING PRAYER

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.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 2: 1 - 5
A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.' He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war. O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 121: 1-2.4-5, 6-9

R. I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'

- I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.' And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. **[R]**
- It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name. There were set the thrones of judgement



- of the house of David. **[R]**
- For the peace of Jerusalem pray: 'Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!' **[R]**
 - For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!' For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. **[R]**

SECOND READING Romans 13:11 - 14
A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon - let us give up all the things we prefer to do under the cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

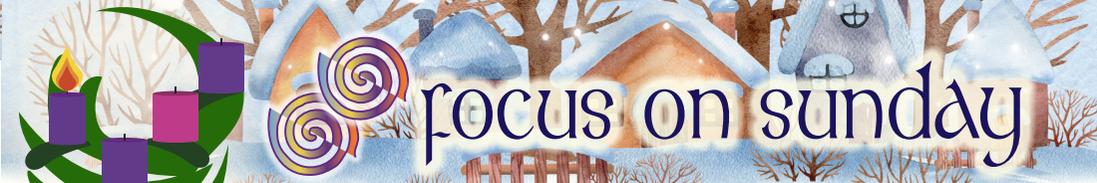
GOSPEL Matthew 24:37 - 44
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left. 'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, All bow for following three lines: and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.



Advent is a reminder that our life on earth is a preparation for the life of eternity in heaven; and that we wait for the coming of Christ to take us home.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make, gathered from among your gifts to us, and may what you grant us to celebrate devoutly here below gain for us the prize of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith. Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May these mysteries, O Lord, in which we have participated, profit us, we pray, for even now, as we walk amid passing things, you teach us by them to love the things of heaven and hold fast to what endures. Through Christ our Lord.



So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming.



The of today's Gospel on this First Sunday of Advent is to 'Keep Awake' for we never know what life may bring. As recent events in our country and around the world this year have shown us, everything can change in an instant, with a phone call, an accident, the death of someone we love. These are the moments that stop us in our tracks. They come unexpectedly, like a 'thief in the night'. As we begin Advent, a season of joy and expectation, this might seem like a gloomy gospel to reflect on. Its tone is apocalyptic, but when Matthew was writing his Gospel, his community had these questions at the forefront of their minds: When will Jesus return? What signs will there be? Why is it taking so long? Jesus does not offer an answer to this question except to say, 'Keep awake!' Instead of worrying about questions that we cannot possibly know the answer to, we might remember that what is important is how we are living now, today, in the present moment. Are we living aware of Christ present here and now in each person and in all of creation? Awakening to this miracle of universal love is a second coming or re-awakening we can get on board with.

Advent is a very special time, a liminal space where we are full of expectant hope. It is an opportunity to take stock and see what is truly important; then we can experience the true joy which the season offers. Today's gospel invites us to be ready, not on tenterhooks and full of anxiety, but to be attentive, with open hearts, so that God's grace and love can enter once more this Christmas. It is through such an awareness that we can reflect on where we are being called to use our gifts and talents to work together for a more just world.

Jane Mellett, *Laudato Si* Officer, Trócaire

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