



Celebrate

First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2025

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

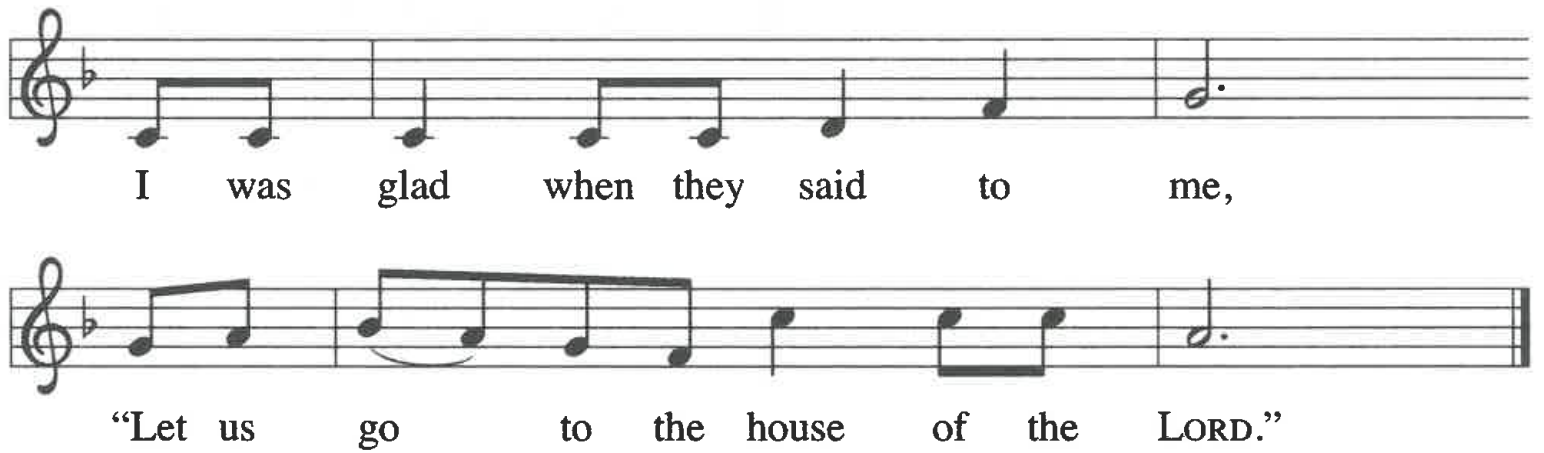
The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's
house
shall be established as the highest
of the mountains
and shall be raised above the
hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come
and say,
"Come, let us go up to the
mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his
paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth
instruction
and the word of the LORD from
Jerusalem.
⁴He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many
peoples;
they shall beat their swords into
plowshares
and their spears into pruning
hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword
against nation;
neither shall they learn war
any more.
⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!



I was glad when they ¹ said to me,

"Let us go to the house ¹ of the LORD."

²Now our ¹ feet are standing
 within your gates, ¹ O Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem is built ¹ as a city
 that is at unity ¹ with itself;

⁴to which the tribes go up, the tribes ¹ of the LORD,
 the assembly of Israel, to praise the name ¹ of the LORD. **R**

⁵For there are the ¹ thrones of judgment,
 the thrones of the ¹ house of David.

⁶Pray for the peace ¹ of Jerusalem:
 "May they pros- ¹ per who love you.

⁷Peace be with- ¹ in your walls
 and quietness with- ¹ in your towers.

⁸For the sake of my kindred ¹ and companions,
 I pray for ¹ your prosperity.

⁹Because of the house of the ¹ LORD our God,
 I will seek to ¹ do you good." **R**

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us

walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field;

one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing (*especially ... and those affected by HIV and AIDS as we remember World AIDS Day*). Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints (*especially*) to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
Amen.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday (Andrew, Apostle [transferred]) John 1:35-42. **Tuesday** Psalm 124. **Wednesday** (commemoration of Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552) Isaiah 54:1-10. **Thursday** (commemoration of John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749) Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19. **Friday** Isaiah 30:19-26. **Saturday** (commemoration of Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342) Isaiah 40:1-11. **Second Sunday of Advent** (commemoration of Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397) Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12.

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