

livingtheword

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Hearing and Living the Sunday Readings

First Sunday of Advent

Reading 1 [Is 2:1-5](#)

This is what Isaiah, son of Amoz, saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come, the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest mountain and raised above the hills.

All nations shall stream toward it; many peoples shall come and say:

"Come, let us climb the LORD's mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths."

For from Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations, and impose terms on many peoples.

They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Reading 2 [Rom 13:11-14](#)

Brothers and sisters:

You know the time;

it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep.

For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed; the night is advanced, the day is at hand.

Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light;

let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day,

not in orgies and drunkenness,

not in promiscuity and lust,

not in rivalry and jealousy.

Reflection Process / Questions

- **10 mins Reading** - underline a word or idea that strikes you
- **10 mins Writing** - write what you have heard, write your response to a reflection question(s) that attracts your attention
- **10 mins Sharing / Praying** - share with a friend or pray to God about livingtheword you have heard.

- **Advent Story: William Barclay. 3 Devils.** Three apprentice devils were coming to earth to finish their apprenticeship. They were talking to Satan, the chief of the devils, about their plans to tempt and ruin people. The first said: I will tell people there is no God. Satan said, 'that will not delude many, for they know that there is a God.' The second said 'I will tell them there is no hell.' Satan answered, 'you will deceive no one on that way; they know even now that there is a hell for sin.' The third said, 'I will tell them there is no hurry.' 'Go' said Satan 'and you will ruin them by the thousand'.

- Isaiah promises a future time when all nations will 'go up to Jerusalem'. This will be a time of Justice and Judgment. Fighting will change to Feeding. Outside the United Nations is a sculpture where a sword is beaten into a plough with the inscription 'they shall beat their swords into ploughs'. What changes in the world need to take place for this 'transformation'? What change needs to take place within 'you'? What weaponry do you use: Wounding words? Cutting looks? Angry attitudes? Arrogant pride? Blindness toward to the hurting? How could you 'walk in the light of the Lord'?

But put on the Lord Jesus Christ,
and make no provision for the desires of the flesh.

Gospel Mt 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples:

“As it was in the days of Noah,
so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.
In those days before the flood,
they were eating and drinking,
marrying and giving in marriage,
up to the day that Noah entered the ark.
They did not know until the flood came and
carried them all away.
So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man.
Two men will be out in the field;
one will be taken, and one will be left.
Two women will be grinding at the mill;
one will be taken, and one will be left.

Therefore, stay awake!

For you do not know on which day your Lord will
come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house
had known the hour of night when the thief was
coming, he would have stayed awake and not let
his house be broken into. So too, you also must
be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the
Son of Man will come.”



“Be prepared, for at an hour
you do not expect,
the Son of Man will come.”
Matthew 24:44

- St Paul provides us with a striking light / darkness image as we enter Advent. Our feet are between two doors. We stand in the darkness of the present age with our faces lit by the coming dawn of our faith. What does ‘awaking from sleep’ mean for you this Advent? How could you throw off ‘the words of darkness’ and ‘put on the Lord Jesus Christ’ more?
- Advent is symbolic of our Christian Journey. We live between the first and second coming of Jesus. We do not know *when* but we do know *that* the second coming will happen. Advent intensifies the focus and our preparedness. If Christmas was to be the second coming what would I need to do to be ‘awake’ and ‘ready’?
- Jesus provides two alarming images for reflection. A crashing intrusion will enter into ordinary everyday life: one will be left at the mill, one will be left at the field. A burglar is coming to rob your house at a particular but unknown hour tonight. What would you do? What thoughts and feelings are stirred within you from these images? What actions are required to be ‘selected in the field’ and ‘safe from burglary’? How do these actions correspond to your faith journey?
- What is one action that you will do to ‘livetheword’ this week?