

First Sunday of Advent ^(a)

INTRODUCTORY SENTENCE: *All the tribes of the earth will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.* Matthew 24:30

AN ADVENT LITANY

As in Advent we look forward to what is to come, let us examine our lives that we may be strengthened in hope, moved thank God for his grace, and inspired to deeper penitence and love.

You know, O Lord, the vigilance of my spiritual enemies, and the weakness of my humanity.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.

Cover me with the wings of your loving mercy,
that I may sleep not in death. Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

have mercy on me, a sinner.

Enlighten the eyes of my mind, that I may delight in your word, and glorify you in praise, O lover of souls.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.

How awesome is your judgement, O Lord, when we shall stand before you, the books are opened, deeds are put to the test, and thoughts are searched out.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.

Quench the flames of your anger, lighten my darkness, and show mercy on me for the sake of your tender love.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.

Grant me, O God, the tears of the sinful woman, and let me wash your feet, for they have led me from the broad path of destruction.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

have mercy on me, a sinner.

Let me offer you the sweet sacrifice of a pure life,
fashioned by my repentance.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.

Let me hear the voice of yours for which I long, saying, Your faith has saved you; go in peace.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
have mercy on me, a sinner.

For you are the lover of souls, and to you is glory, praise, dominion and power, now and to the ages of ages. **Amen.**

Lord, let me hear the call of your prophet John the Baptist, that I may truly repent and be converted.

Let what is crooked in me become straight,
let what is rough become smooth, and what is empty be filled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER:

Almighty God,
as your kingdom dawns,
turn us from the darkness of sin to the light of holiness,
that we may be ready to meet you in our Lord and Saviour,
Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Romans 13.11–14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL

Matthew 24.36–44

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus spoke to his disciples: 'About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But 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. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:

Stir up your, power, O God,
and come among us;
heal our wounds, calm our fears and give us peace;
through Jesus our Redeemer. **Amen.**

COMMUNION SENTENCE: *Blessed are those servants whom the master finds alert when he comes; he will have them sit them down to eat and he will come and serve them.*

Luke 12:37.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**