

First Sunday of Advent A2025

Today we begin the four weeks leading to the feast of Christmas we traditionally call Advent. Advent is a time of preparation of heart and assessment of life in order to welcome the Lord who is coming.

Advent is not only about the event of the return of the Lord; it is also about the task of building the world according to Jesus' spirit until he comes again. The routine of preparing each year for Christmas is an effort from the church to remind us that the event of the return of Christ will be a decisive moment for human history and for our own life. Therefore, we should not take it lightly or be distracted by the mood of the season with its commercials and gifts.

That is why our Lord is talking about his return like a thief who breaks in a house in the middle of the night. The comparison he uses with the story of Noah speaks goes in the way.

At the time of Noah, indeed, while he was preparing himself for the flood about to happen, the rest of the population of the earth was unaware and immersed in its business without any concern. The real concern of every one was eating, drinking, marrying and giving in marriage until the day all were swept away by water.

Why is our Lord telling us this old story? The goal of our Lord is to remind us that whatever might be the success of our business and whatever we do in this world, we should not be distracted from the truth that there is a God and that the issues of life and death are at stake, in his hands.

Therefore, we cannot live as though nothing matters. We have to be prepared so that any time God calls us, be there in the morning, at midday, evening or midnight, he might find us ready. That is the reason why the Gospel insists that we stay awake because we do not know on which day our Lord will come.

That day of the return of the Lord will be a time of separation from our routine and things we usually do and which, very probably, we like a lot. In this regard, human experience has taught us that there is no more bitter separation than that for which people have not been prepared and they expected the least.

The lack of watchfulness is a source of misery and disaster for whoever does not prepare himself. For instance, the thieves do not send a message of warning at the time they break in. What they do is simply to play with the mind of the householder by taking him by surprise. If that is the case, a wise master of the house who has valuables in his home must constantly watch guard.

My Brothers and Sisters, there is no need to live in fear about what will happen to us tomorrow. What our Lord wants of us is that we come to realize that we have to use the present time in preparing for his return. It is not good that he surprises us. That would be detrimental to us.

Now, let me conclude with the story tale of three fresh devils who were about to be sent on earth for internship. Satan their chief master asked them, "Explain me your plans and what you will do to be successful in this mission". The first said, "I will tell people on earth that there is no God". Satan said, "You cannot deceive them with such a plan, because they all know that God exists".

The second said, "Well, I will tell them that there is no hell". Satan answered, "You can deceive no one that way, because they all know that if they sin they go to hell". The third said, "I will tell them that there is no need to hurry". Then, Satan said, "That is great. That way you are sure that you can ruin them, because they will live in the illusion that they still have plenty of time".

The point of this story is that if we want to be saved, we have to do something right now. What we can do today, let us not put it for tomorrow. As St Paul says, this is the time we have to awake from our sleep. Time has come for us to leave behind us the work of darkness and put on the armor of light. This is the time of conducting ourselves properly as in the day, and not in orgies or drunkenness, promiscuity and lust, rivalry and jealousy. Time has become shorter than ever, because every day brings us closer to that time of the return of the Lord. Amen.

Isaiah 2: 1-5; Romans 13: 11-14; Matthew 24: 37-44



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