



Liturgy Cycle A

First Sunday Of Advent

Waking From Sleep

Introduction

Today we begin the church's liturgical year. This gives us a chance to make a fresh start. Advent is not a time to sleep. Today's readings urge us to wake up. Let us begin by asking the lord's forgiveness and help.

First Reading (Isaiah 2: 1-5)

With its vision of universal peace, this reading is surely one of the most inspiring in the bible. But it also challenges Christians to work for this new world which was inaugurated by Christ.

Second Reading (Romans 13: 11-14)

St Paul urges us to wake up; to turn away from darkness of evil, and to walk in the light of Christ.

Gospel (Matthew 24: 37-44)

This gospel urges us to stay awake because we do not know the day or the hour when Christ will return.

Prayer Of The Faithful

As we wait in joyful hope for final coming of Christ, let us pray that we may be alive in his presence among us, and eager to do his work in the world.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

For the Christian community: that through the practice of prayer and fraternal love it may give effective witness to Christ in the world. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

For all the temporal leaders that they may not spare themselves in working to bring about a just and peaceful society. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.



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That we may encounter Christ in the Eucharist, and thus grow in faith, hope and love. We pray in faith.

R: Lord, hear us in your love.

Communion Reflection

**In today's second reading St Paul said;
'The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon'.
An ancient rabbi once asked his pupils
How they could tell when the night was passed
And the day was on its way back again.**

One suggested:

**'When you see an animal in the distance,
and you can tell whether it is a sheep or a goat.**

Another said:

**'When you see a tree in the distance,
and you can tell whether it is a fig tree or a peach tree'.**

But the rabbi was not impressed.

His own answer was as follows:

**'It is when you look at the face of any human being,
and see there the face of a brother or sister,
because if you cannot do this,
then no matter what time it is,
for you it is still the night'.**