

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

COLLECT

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Is 2:1-5

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In the days to come
the mountain of the Temple of the Lord
shall tower above the mountains
and be lifted higher than the hills.
All the nations will stream to it,
peoples without number will come to it; and
they will say:

‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of
the Lord,
to the Temple of the God of Jacob
that he may teach us his ways
so that we may walk in his paths;
since the Law will go out from Zion,
and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.’

He will wield authority over the nations
and adjudicate between many peoples;
these will hammer their swords into
ploughshares,
their spears into sickles.
Nation will not lift sword against nation,
there will be no more training for war.
O House of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 121

Response:

**I rejoiced when I heard them say:
“Let us go to God’s house.”**

1. I rejoiced when I heard them say:
“Let us go to God’s house.”
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem. (R.)
2. It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord.
For Israel’s law it is,
there to praise the Lord’s name.
There were set the thrones of judgement
of the house of David. (R.)
3. For the peace of Jerusalem pray:
“Peace be to your homes!
May peace reign in your walls,
in your palaces, peace!” (R.)
4. For love of my brethren and friends
I say: “Peace upon you!”
For love of the house of the Lord
I will ask for your good. (R.)

SECOND READING

Rm 13:11-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

You know “the time” has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Mt 24:37-44

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: “As it was in Noah’s day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

‘So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**

(all bow during the next three lines)

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make,
gathered from among your gifts to us,
and may what you grant us to celebrate
devoutly here below
gain for us the prize of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our
earth shall yield its increase.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May these mysteries, O Lord,
in which we have participated,
profit us, we pray,
for even now, as we walk amid passing
things,
you teach us by them to love the things of
heaven
and hold fast to what endures.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



WAKE UP!

(MATT 24:37-44)

Our Gospel reading today is in some ways surprising: we are beginning the season of Advent, when we prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus into our world as a baby, born in the usual way from his mother, Mary.

But the Jesus we encounter is an adult, warning his audience to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man at the end of time. The title 'Son of Man' has overtones of the theme of judgment, which is also connected with that of the Day of the Lord.

We might note that Jesus talks about the flood purely as a natural event: he does not refer to it as a punishment for sin or wickedness. People are going about their everyday affairs, oblivious to the imminent danger which threatens them. The Gospel message for us is to look more deeply at our lives and to be prepared so that the Lord will find us alert, aware that he may appear at any time and ready to receive him. Many parables present this lesson: the coming of the Lord is a serious business, and we should take it seriously. The readings from Matthew which we will hear during Advent are anything but comfortable. ■

SAY

**Maranatha! Come,
Lord Jesus!**

(See Revelation 22:20)

LEARN

The biblical flood is a well-attested natural disaster in the ancient world.

The biblical story attributes the flood to God's judgment on human wickedness.

The First Sunday of Advent is the first day of the church's new year.

DO

Flooding today is often due to human mismanagement or exploitation of the natural world: register your concern about climate change to an appropriate person or authority.

REFLECT

If it were a crime to be a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you? We sometimes see this question displayed on posters as a challenge to passers-by. We may think that we are living a good and proper life if we are honest in our dealings with other people, decent and well-mannered in our relations with them. No doubt this was how the people of the time of Noah felt. During Advent, we are invited to look beyond the surface of our daily lives and routine and to be more aware of Jesus.

We are asked to think of Christmas not just as something which happened a long time ago, but as the way that God reached out to us in the person of Jesus, and continues to do so. How would we feel if we knew that Jesus was coming in such a way to us today? What changes would we make in the way we live? The lesson of today's Gospel is that it should not make any difference at all: we should always be living and behaving as if the coming of Jesus as Son of Man were imminent, not out of fear, but because it has become natural to us as disciples.

The message of Christmas is that God was prepared to come into our world to invite us into friendship with God. We do not intentionally hurt our friends, and apologise as soon as we can if things go wrong between us. Advent is the time when we are challenged to wake up, to see the world with fresh eyes, and to appreciate the great gift which God has given us in the person, life and example of Jesus: then we will gladly live by the Gospel teachings. ■