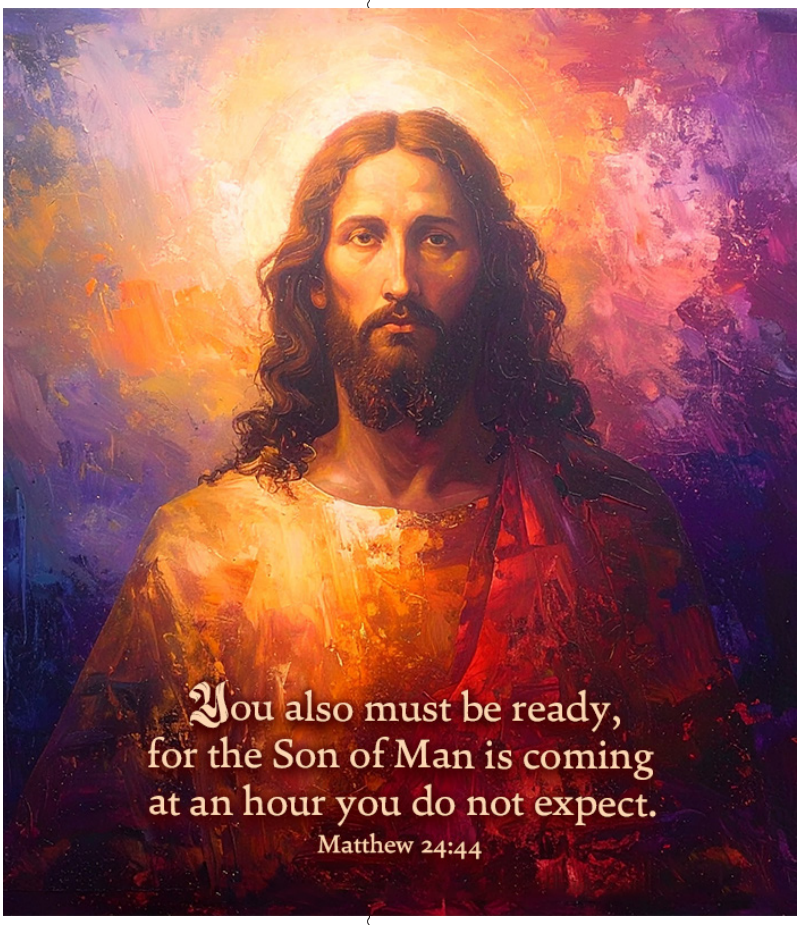
First Sunday of Advent, Year A
Be Ready



The Lord be with you.
Let us pray...

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come, that by your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by your mighty deliverance; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (Gregorian Sacramentary, 6th Century)

— First Reading – Isaiah 2:1–5 —

The prophecy says that one day all nations will stream to the mountain of the Lord. It is difficult to not imagine Jesus on the mountain with his disciples gathered around to hear his teaching. The day is coming when not just a few disciples will gather on the that holy mountain. In that day, all nations will bow before him and walk in his light. In that day, he will judge the nations, and there will be peace on earth. Advent reminds us to call that day *today*. Come, let us walk in the light that is our Lord, and let us do so today.

— Psalm 122:1–9 —

Advent makes us all pilgrims. The journey begins today. In the busy days before Christmas, it is time to put away worldly concerns and focus on the coming Savior. This is a time for joy instead of the stress that commonly accompanies the season in the West. What a blessed Christmas it will be when our chief concern is, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

— Second Reading – Romans 13:8–14 —

It is time to walk in the light. Night is nearly over, and we must prepare to wake up and leave the darkness. There is no way to do so but to dress in the bright armor that is Jesus. To put on the Lord Jesus Christ is to be ready to walk in the shining light of day. Advent is a time for us to remember to get dressed up in the Lord, to conscientiously clothe ourselves with the Light of the World.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

Isaiah 2:5

— Gospel – Matthew 24:36–44 —

Who knows (Mark 13:32) when the end (Matthew 24:13) will come and the Son of Man will appear, "coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Matthew 24:30b)? Whenever the end arrives, it will be a surprise. So, because we do not know when he will appear—because it will be at an unexpected time—we must be ready at all times. Advent is a time of making ready for the unexpected arrival of the Great King.

Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

Romans 13:11

— The Common Thread —

The season is Advent so we should not be surprised that metaphors of coming and going and traveling are used. Isaiah exhorts, let us go up to the house of the Lord, and let us walk in the light of the Lord. The psalmist is happy whenever anyone says, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." Paul calls us to walk properly as those who are clothed in the armor of Christ's light. In the optional Gospel Reading (Matthew 21:1–11), it is the blessed Jesus who is the one coming—coming in the name of the Lord. In the primary Gospel Reading, we are not so much coming or going as being still, ready for the sudden and final appearing of the Lord, that happens at a time we cannot anticipate.

Unscramble the verse:

Reeroefth oyu soal msut eb ydare

orf eht ons fo nam si niogcm

ta na hrou uyo od tno xecetp.

Be Ready

Find the 32 bold words from Matthew 24:36–39, 42–44 KJV.

M V W D A F R N A D A Y F I N
A S R A A N O U O W H E U Q R
S O Y T T T G O O N U O T U G
L D H A S C L E F H R N O J O
V E E T D F H C L V K H S T O
R R A G H N A M O S D O T H D
H E V F N I U I B M N V Q Z M
T F E O Z V N H E T E A R K A
E F N F B L O K F K T A H W N
M U Y T E U J Y L N O R G E F
O S A Z S I B N C O F U K X D
C U D E Y K H O A W H O S F B
K N O W E T H T V I R Y J S B
H C T A W S N B D B R E A D Y
Q O V O B Z O A P Q K Z Z V L

But of that **day** and **hour knoweth** no man, no, not the **angels** of **heaven**, but my **Father only**. But as the **days** of **Noe** were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the **flood** they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the **ark**, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. **Watch** therefore: for ye **know not what hour your Lord doth come**. But know this, that if the **goodman** of the **house** had known in what **watch** the **thief** would come, he would have watched, and would not have **suffered** his house to be **broken** up. Therefore be ye also **ready**: for in such an hour as ye **think not** the **Son** of **man cometh**.