

Here's a text if you've only a minute ...

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

First Reading

For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!' *Psalm*

Stand ready because the Son of Man is coming.

Gospel

Let us pray in Advent time
with longing and waiting for the coming of the Lord.
Father in heaven, our hearts desire the warmth of your love
and our minds are searching for the light of your Word.

Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour
and give us the strength to grow in love,
that the dawn of his coming
may find us rejoicing in his presence
and welcoming the light of his truth.

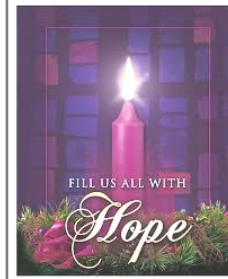
Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you want to reflect further:
Isaiah 2:1–5; Psalm 121 (122); Romans 13: 11–14; Matthew 24: 37–44



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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



First Sunday of Advent, Year A
27th November 2022

'Let us walk in
the light of the Lord'

This Sunday we enter into the beautiful season of Advent. Our attitude at this time is one of watching and waiting, and the graces to pray for are joy and hope. Our weary world is in so much need of this spirit, and of the light and peace of the coming Christ.

The **First Reading** from Isaiah looks forward to the time when the whole world will be gathered together in the peace of God's kingdom.

The **Psalm** – one for pilgrims going joyfully up to Jerusalem – picks up this theme. They pray for peace: peace in the city, in their homes, and among all whom they know.

The **Second Reading** from the letter to the Romans is a reminder to 'wake up', for salvation is near. It is also an encouragement to live in the light.

Jesus tells us in the **Gospel** to stay awake – we must not become so engrossed in our daily lives that we are unprepared when the Lord comes.

Let us renew our spirit of joyful hope this week.

We also place the needs of our world before Jesus as we prepare for his coming.



Opening Prayer

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.

First Reading Isaiah 2: 1–5

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.

As I settle to pray, I take a moment to come to a sense of stillness,
clearing my mind of preoccupations for this time.
When I am ready, I read the text slowly once or twice.
Isaiah is writing at a threatening period for the people of Judah.
Our times too are troubled.
What words do I find encouraging in this passage?
Are they the promises of peace and hope?
Or the notion of walking in God’s ways?
I let these words speak to my heart. Maybe I draw strength from them.
As I start my Advent journey, I may want the Lord of light to show me the
path to follow.
I speak to him of my desires for this time of preparation, and remain
silent before him.
I pray for my loved ones and for the needs of our world.
I draw my prayer to a close: *Lord, let me always walk in your light.*

Gospel: Matthew 24: 37–44

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 until the Flood came and swept all away. It will
be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two people in
the fields, one is taken, one left; of two 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 the night the burglar
would come, they would have stayed awake and would not have
allowed anyone to break through the wall of their house.
Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is
coming at an hour you do not expect.’

I come to my place of prayer. Perhaps I light a candle; maybe I have an
Advent wreath, a sign of the Lord’s coming.
I relax into God’s loving presence, and ask the Lord to be with me as I
settle to pray.
I read the text slowly and carefully.
The Lord will come unexpectedly and indiscriminately.
What does this mean to me as I go about my daily routine?
Jesus encourages us to ‘stay awake’ and to ‘stand ready’.
How can I be more alert and attentive to the present moment ...
to people and to events happening around me? ...
to the movement of the Spirit in my heart?
How am I conscious of the Lord, present in my daily life?
I speak to him about some of this.
As Christmas preparations are set in motion, maybe I can ask the Lord to
show me how I can retain inner stillness at this time. What do I need to
ask him for as I prepare to welcome Christ this Christmas?
I wait silently in his presence.
I end my prayer with a *Glory be* ...