

The Living Word

First Sunday of Advent, Year A

27 November 2022

First Reading Is 2:1-5

The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.

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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 121:1-2. 4-5. 6-9. R. see v.1.

*(R.) Let us go rejoicing to the house
of the Lord.*

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 Rom 13:11-14

The time has come, our salvation is near.

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 the 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.

Gospel Acclamation Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

*Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.*

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 24:37-44

Stay awake, you must be ready.

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
the 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.’



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Our Lord loved to unfurl the scroll
of the Prophet Isaiah in his local
synagogue. The poetic image of
swords being hammered into
ploughshares reverberated into his
renouncing violence against the
Roman occupying army in his own
time. When will this picture come
true for all human beings for all
time?

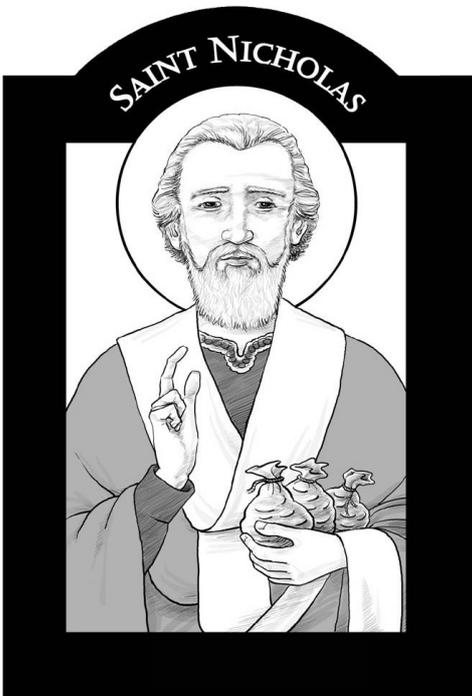
Only God knows! We don’t know
any more than we know when a
burglar might target our home. But
our ignorance of God’s timetable is
no excuse for being fatalistic and
sleepy. We have our own span of
life providing the timetable for our
own contribution to the hammering
of swords into ploughshares.

Recent Popes, especially St John
Paul II, have taken up this theme
for our times, teaching more
restrictive criteria for using armed
force, even dropping the term ‘just
war’ to very small print in the
Catechism.

We could pause for a moment to
pray to be awake to our
opportunities to shape society in
the light of the vision of Isaiah and
the practice of Jesus the Prince of
Peace.

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St Nicholas was a 4th century bishop of Myra in Turkey and little is known about his life other than myths and legends. One such story tells of St Nicholas giving three young women a bag of gold each for their marriage dowries, in order to save them from prostitution. And in another, he is said to have brought back to life three boys who had been murdered. In the low countries of Europe, his popularity as a patron of children led to the custom of giving children presents on his feast day. Then later, Dutch Protestants living in North America combined this custom with the Nordic legend of a magician who rewarded good children with presents and punished those who were naughty. This new super-legend gave rise to the much beloved Santa Claus.



Wordsearch

Try to find these words:

- | | | |
|----------|-------|-------|
| breaking | flood | ready |
| coming | grain | swept |
| drinking | guard | taken |
| field | Noah | thief |

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

Help Noah and the animals find their way onto the ark so they can be ready for the flood when it comes.

