

# The Living Word

First Sunday of Advent, Year A

30 November 2025

## 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 Dianne Bergant CSA

We may be accustomed to think of  
Advent as the time when we prepare  
for the coming of God, but the  
readings also train our attention on  
our own journey to God. We see this  
most clearly in this first Sunday with  
readings that tell us the identity of  
the pilgrims, the destination toward  
which they travel, and the way of life  
that is required of them on their  
journey. As the Vatican Council has  
proclaimed: We are a pilgrim people.

Both the reading from Isaiah and the  
psalm response speak of the  
pilgrimage to the mountain of the  
Lord, the place where God can be  
found. Although the psalm speaks  
about Jerusalem and refers to the  
temple there, the broader theological  
significance of the mountain, the city  
and the temple is one and the same.  
They represent the presence of God  
in our midst, and this presence is the  
goal of our striving. There are clear  
directions about how we are to live  
while we are on this pilgrimage to  
God. In Isaiah we learn that we must  
put away our instruments of violence  
and hatred, our swords and our  
spears. Lest we pick them up again,  
we are told to convert them into life-  
producing implements, into ploughs  
and pruning hooks. Paul exhorts us  
to put away our deeds of darkness  
and self-indulgence and to clothe  
ourselves instead in the deeds of  
Jesus Christ. Matthew points out the  
need for alertness, attentiveness, a  
disposition that is open to a change  
of heart.

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**S**t Francis Xavier was born in Spain in 1506 and studied at the University of Paris. He met St Ignatius of Loyola and joined his group of disciples who would found a new religious order; the Jesuits. Preaching in foreign missions became a fundamental aim of the Jesuits and in 1541, he sailed to Goa in India. He worked and lived with the poor people in every place he visited; from India and Ceylon to Japan and the Malay peninsula. During his ten years as a missionary, he is believed to have converted many thousands to Christianity. He is recognised as the patron saint of foreign missions.



# 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.

