



Advent Midweek Service

Opening Dialog

It is now time for you to wake from sleep; **the night is far spent; the light draws near.**

Opening Prayer

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. As darkness falls, may we watch for your light. Keep us awake and alert to your coming and strengthen us to the end, that we may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Reading

Mark 13:33-37

Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Reflection Questions

What word, image, or phrase stands out for you in this reading? (silence)

What will you watch for and pray about this Advent? (silence)

What will help you stay awake? (silence)

Reflection

Times of rapid social change can induce a drowsiness forged from fear and anxiety, much like the disciples at Gethsemane who fall asleep as Jesus prays. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., in his famous sermon, "Remaining Awake Through a Great Revolution" echoes Jesus' appeal to his disciples to stay alert when he said: "...one of the great liabilities of life is that all too many people find themselves living amid a great period of social change, and yet they fail to develop the new attitudes and responses, that the new situation demands." Lest we think waiting is tantamount to complacency, Dr. King reminds us that "the time is always ripe to do right."

Hymn of the Day

Wake, Awake for Night is Flying – Luke Morton

Responsive Prayer

Show us your mercy, O Lord, **and grant us your salvation.** (silence)

Clothe your ministers with righteousness. **Let your people sing with joy.** (silence)

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world; **for only in you can we live in safety.** (silence)

Lord, keep this nation under your care, **and guide us in the way of justice and truth.** (silence)

Let your way be known upon earth; **your saving health among all nations.** (silence)

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten, **nor the hope of the poor be taken away.** (silence)

Create in us clean hearts, O God, **and sustain us with your Holy Spirit.** (silence)

Closing Prayer

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

Even as we wait, watch, and wonder, **God is with us.**

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**