

LIVING AND CELEBRATING ADVENT - WEEK 2

JESUS is our LIGHT

Jesus said, I have come as light into the world
so that everyone who believes in Me should not remain in the darkness.
John 12: 46



O Jesus, You are our Light and Strength,
In You we place all our trust
as You guide our way even in the darkest times.

REMEMBERING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

We pause and remember that our God is ever with us. He made us and we are bearers of His light.

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness, and truth." Ephesians 5:8-9

HYMN: BE LIGHT FOR OUR EYES

REFRAIN

Come and be light for our eyes;
be the air we breathe, be the voice we speak!
Come, be the song we sing,
be the path we seek.

Your life was given, food for all people,
body and blood new life in our midst!
Death is no longer, life is our future
Jesus, Messiah, name of all names. Refrain

We hold Your presence, risen forever!
Your name now names us People of God!
Filled with Your vision, people of mission,
healing, forgiving, light for the world. Refrain

Lead us to justice, Light in the darkness;
singing, proclaiming Jesus is Lord!
Teach us to speak and help us to listen
for when Your truth and our dreams embrace! Refrain

PRAYER BEFORE THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

I am the Light of the world says the Lord.
They who follow Me will have the light of life.
Listen to My words; they are from the One Who sent Me.
You are called to share God's glory
for you are the light of the world.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 PETER 3:8-14

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved,

that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years
and a thousand years like one day.
The Lord does not delay His promise, as some regard "delay,"
but He is patient with you,
not wishing that any should perish
but that all should come to repentance.
But the day of the Lord will come like a thief,
and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar
and the elements will be dissolved by fire,
and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.
Since everything is to be dissolved in this way,
what sort of persons ought you to be,
conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion,
waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God,
because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames
and the elements melted by fire. But according to His promise
we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.
Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be
found without spot or blemish before Him, at peace.

MARK 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.
Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way.

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of
repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People of the whole Judean
countryside

and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him
and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they
acknowledged their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a
leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And
this is what he proclaimed:

One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and
loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water;
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

REFLECTION; Sister Mary Kathleen Glavich, SND

Light is beautiful and mysterious—like God. It is one but can be
separated into many colors. No one knows if light is made up of
particles or waves. In addition light has many functions that makes
it a good symbol for Jesus. Light helps us see things. Jesus gives
us the truth about God and about life, our origin, and our destiny.
Light guides us as we travel. Jesus guides us safely through life to
our heavenly home. Light promotes growth and life. Jesus brings us
everlasting life. Light warms and comforts. Jesus welcomes us and
calms us. Light prevents crime. Jesus is goodness itself. Light
dispels darkness, which stands for evil. Jesus pierces the darkness
of sin and death.

and conquers them. All the darkness in the world cannot put out one
candle flame. Jesus cannot be overcome by evil.

We often think of Jesus as our light. John begins his Gospel with
"the true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the

world" (John 1:9). In the Nicene Creed, we call Jesus "Light from Light." Our greatest celebration, the Easter Vigil, opens by lighting a paschal candle from new fire and acclaiming the light of Christ.

A famous poem by Cardinal John Henry Newman begins, "Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,/Lead thou me on." We pray for enlightenment to Christ and his Spirit, who came to us in the form of fire on Pentecost. Following their lights, we look forward to eternal light in God's kingdom where for all God's holy ones, "Night will be no more, nor will they need light from lamp or sun, for the Lord God shall give them light". (Revelation 22:5)

The people that walked in darkness
Has seen a great light;
On those who live in a land of deep shadow
A light has shone.
Isaiah 9:1

ADVENT LITANY

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world.

RESPONSE: COME, LORD JESUS.

Christ, You are light in our darkness...

Son of God, save us from our sins...

Son of Mary, deepen our love for You and one another...

Jesus, bring hope into the lives of all people...

Jesus our Brother, give your peace to all nations...

Divine Master, be the joy of all who love You...

Compassionate Lord, be with those facing job, home and financial losses...

Holy Lord, bring unity among all who believe in You...

Lord Jesus, stay with us always...

HYMN: AWAKE O SLEEPER

Refrain: Awake, O sleeper. Arise from death.

Abandon the shadows of the night.

The wind of the Spirit will be your breath,
and Christ will fill you with light.

1. Once you were darkness.

Once you were lost in the shadows.

Once you were darkness.

Now you are children of light.

2. Live as God's people.

Live as God's justice and mercy,
filled with compassion,
filled with the power of love.

3. Shine out with the splendor of love.

Shine with justice and righteousness.

Sing the music your spirit has heard,

the songs of glory and light!

THOUGHTS

Human nature in every time and place is in need of healing from Jesus. It is only Jesus Who can cure the basic ills of humanity. The best way to conquer any problem is through prayer. We need to take other measures also, but the starting place is prayer. When we really believe and really pray, solutions will be found or we get the strength to live with the problem, the strength to carry the cross. Even if there is darkness all around us, when we pray we can keep the light of God in us. When we conquer problems through prayer or get the strength from prayer to continue to live through problems, then the prophecy of Isaiah applies to us also,

The people that walked in darkness
Has seen a great light;
On those who live in a land of deep shadow
A light has shone. Isaiah 9:1

Despite all our progress in so many ways, technology and communications, space travel, medicine, our economy, they are not the light because they have not cured any of the basic problems of humanity. Only Jesus is the Light. Our first commandment, 'I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before Me' is stating a beautiful truth to bring us happiness. Any false god that we might run after, any tangent that we might go off on, is leading us from the light to darkness. Pray for those who are in darkness at this moment that they may find the light of Jesus and overcome problems and difficulties. Pray for ourselves also that we may live more and more with Jesus as our Light, and that the light of Jesus may shine out through us to others. What a wonderful world it would be then! What progress that would be! Then we need never worry about watching the news because it would be always good news. Let's make the first verse of the Psalm our prayer:

The Lord is my light and my help
Whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
Before whom shall I shrink? Psalm 27:1

PRAYER

Blessed are You, almighty God, our Light and our Salvation,
to You be all glory and praise forever!
Lord and lover of humankind,
You sent Your Son to earth out of compassion and love,
to shine with Your eternal light.
We proclaim Him Savior and Lord,
and praise Your goodness and mercy.
We join with all creation in praising You, Lord of heaven and earth,
of all that exists, and is yet to be created.
All honor and praise be to You,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God forever.



Jesus said, "The light
little while.

will be among you only a

Walk while you have the light, so that darkness may not overcome
you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where he/she is going.

While you have the light, believe in the light,
so that you may become children of the light."

John 12: 35-36

Live Jesus in our hearts.
Forever!