

for REFLECTION

Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy *Lectio Divina* for the First Week of Advent

We begin our prayer:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Keep us alert, we pray, O Lord our God, as we await the advent of Christ your Son, so that, when he comes and knocks, he may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in his praise.

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

(Collect, Monday of the First Week of Advent)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.

Luke 21:25-28; 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.

But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.

“Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Meditation (*Meditatio*)

After the reading, take some time to reflect in silence on one or more of the following questions:

- What word or words in this passage caught your attention?
- What in this passage comforted you?
- What in this passage challenged you?

If practicing lectio divina as a family or in a group, after the reflection time, invite the participants to share their responses.

Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)

Read the scripture passage again, followed by this reflection:

How does this passage connect with the experience of your daily life?

People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world. We await and prepare for the second coming of our Lord. Do I wait with dismay or with hope? How can my acts of mercy nourish hope in my own life and in the lives of others?

Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from . . . the anxieties of daily life. What aspects of your daily life hinder your expressions of love for God and for your

neighbors? Does the way you spend your time reflect your true priorities? What steps can you take this week to help bring Christ's mercy to those you meet?

Be vigilant at all times and pray. What distractions cloud your ability to see and address the needs of others? What activities or practices do I need to eliminate so that I can spend more time in prayer and service?

Prayer (*Oratio*)

Read the Scripture passage one more time. Bring to the Lord the praise, petition, or thanksgiving that the Word inspires in you.

After all have had a chance to make their prayer:

Closing Prayer:

In days to come,
The mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest
mountain
and raised above the hills.

All nations shall stream toward it;
many peoples shall come and say:
"Come, let us climb the LORD's mountain,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
That he may instruct us in his ways,
and we may walk in his paths."
For from Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and impose terms on many peoples.
They shall beat their swords into
plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
One nation shall not raise the sword
against another,
nor shall they train for war again.

O house of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the LORD!

(Isaiah 2:2-5)