

The 1st Sunday in Advent

“The Day is at Hand!”

Romans 13:10-12

November 30, 2025

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Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, our text for this 1st Sunday of Advent is from our epistle reading, Romans 13:10-12.

“10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. 11 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.”

So far the text:

“The night is far spent, the day is at hand.”

As we begin this new Christian year, this 1st Sunday of Advent, this is the reality of the time in which we live. This is the parameter of where we are in the chronology of world. We are not living in the world’s infancy, as if we were still waiting for the first coming of the Messiah.

The children of Israel lived in this era as we heard in our Old Testament reading from Isaiah 2. They lived in the time of prophecy of the Messiah yet to be born. They were filled with the joyful expectation of Messiah who would establish His peace in the world through the Gospel of His salvation!

They looked forward to the latter days where **“the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it.”**

The Gentiles would come in the latter days and be converted by the Gospel of God’s forgiveness in Jesus’ death and resurrection proclaimed in the latter days of the New Testament era. The nations are flowing to the Gospel of Jesus. We are in the latter days.

The night is far spent, Paul proclaims. All this has come to pass. The New Covenant of God's mercy has been established and we are living in the very times that Isaiah prophesied would come to pass. **“For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.”**

The “shall” of the going forth of the New Covenant of the God's Word, has become an “is”! The Lord is bringing people to repentance and they are living under His peace and reconciliation of Christ crucified. The Lord has brought you and me to repentance and peace through the power of the Holy Spirit.

God is judging **“between the nations, and rebuk(ing) many people;”** They are, we are beating our swords into plowshares, and spears into pruning hooks;

We live in these latter days under the peace and rule of the One who rode into Jerusalem humbly and sacrificed Himself for the sins of the world! Hosannah! Yes Jesus has saved us and continues to save us through His Word and sacraments of peace!

The night is far spent! All this has been graciously accomplished by our merciful God and the day is at hand!

Jesus' final coming could come at any moment. The final day of judgement is at hand! And so God's people of the latter days, you and me and all believers in Jesus are told to do something very important – **put on the armor of light!** Or as the Old Testament reading tells us: **“let us walk in the light of the Lord.”**

What does that mean? The bright day of the coming of the Lord of light is at hand. Walk in His light. He has clothed you with the bright shining holy robe of His righteousness given to you in your baptism. Now clothe yourself daily with the light of His love, daily drowning your sins, lusts and evil desires in daily repentance and receive His full bright shining light of forgiveness in His Word and in the receiving of His very body and blood!

So our Psalm 122 says:

“I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go into the house of the Lord.”

Why is it a good thing to come to church often? Does this really need to be explained?

Well, God gives the reason in this Psalm: **“Peace be within your walls, prosperity within your palaces.” For the sake of my brethren and companions, I will now say, “Peace be within you.”**

And strengthened by this peace, the believer is then strengthened to put on the armor of His light by living a life of sanctification! Simply put, Psalm 122 says:

**“Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek your good.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.**

Seek His good. Yes we live in the world of darkness. Yes, this night is far spent – the world seeks more and more ways to do evil and invents more and more ways. Yet, the soldier of Christ, goes onward in His love, undiscouraged and undaunted by the evil that surrounds him or her.

The Christian doubles down on love and the shunning of all evil because we are so close to Jesus’ final coming!

**“10 Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.
11 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.**

Now is not the time to be complacent, careless or indifferent. One does not want to become disqualified in the race by falling into the world’s sinful ways, back into the clutches of Satan!

No! It's time to be awake and active!

*Cast afar this world’s vain pleasure
And boldly strive for heav’nly treasure.*

*Be steadfast in the Savior’s might.
Trust the Lord, who stands beside you,
For Jesus from all harm will hide you.*

*By faith you conquer in the fight.
Take courage, weary soul! Look forward to the goal!*

Joy awaits you. The race well run, Your long war won, Your crown shines splendid as the sun

Cast afar this world's vain pleasure!

“Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.

The only provision you and I make is to be strong in the Lord's might. In gladness we come to the House of the Lord to be filled with His peace and pardon and refocused on His will to live in His light in these latter days, waiting with great expectation the final day of His coming, the day that is at hand! Come Lord Jesus! Come quickly!

Amen.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Amen. (Philippians 4:7)