

**First Sunday of Advent – The Incarnate One and the Eternal Cosmic Christ  
at the same time. -Richard Rohr.**

**November 30, 2025**

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**Put on Jesus Christ.**

**Beat their swords into plowshares.**

**You must be prepared.**

**-rvb.**

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**“Deep peace of the shining stars to you, which stay invisible till darkness  
discloses their pure and shining presence, beaming down in compassion  
on our turning world. Deep peace of the shining stars to you!**

**Deep peace of the watching shepherds to you, of unpretentious folk who,  
watching and waiting, spend long hours on the hillside, expecting in  
simplicity some Coming of the Lord. Deep peace of the watching  
shepherds to you!**

**“Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you, who swift as the wave and  
pervasive as the air, quiet as the earth, and shining like a star, breathes  
into us His Peace and His Spirit. Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you!**

**-Mary Rogers, adapted from the Gaelic.”**

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**A collage of Incarnational manifestations by Johann Scheffler (Angelus  
Silesius) – The Cherubinic Wanderer. (1624-1677).**

**Note: His** literary style – Angelus writes Epigrams, a favorite form of expression during the 16th and 17TH centuries. The Epigram is a brief, poetic satire dealing with a simple matter. The conclusion is significant in that it always turns out to be contrary to what we expect and is where sharp wit comes together at the end. -Joseph Schmidt.

**For the crib of Jesus** – “The wood more precious than the throne of Solomon. For there enfolded, lay God’s true Eternal Son.”

**On the stable** – “O pilgrim, enter here; the stall of Bethlehem exceeds by far the town, the fort of Jerusalem. You gain good shelter here for the eternal Babe. His mother and His maid are found here with his bride.”

**To the Virgin Mary** – “O noble Lady, speak, was it humility that chose you to conceive God, who is infinity? Or was it something else? For I would like to know how to be a maiden, bride, God’s mother here below.”

A Sigh – “One placed God upon straw when He a man became; If only I had been that very straw and hay.”

**The Blessed Silence of Night** – “Note, in the silent night, God as a man is born to compensate thereby for what Adam had done. If your soul can be still as night to the created, God becomes man in you, retrieves what is violated.”

**The Simplicity that Honors God Most** – “How simple we must grow, how simple they who came. The shepherds look at God before all others. He sees God nevermore, not there, not here on earth who does not long within to be a shepherd first.”

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**“It is in Jesus that we live, move, and have our being.” Acts 17:28.**

**Roger J. Vanden Busch**

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#### **Reading 1**

**Isaiah 2:1-5**

**This is what Isaiah, son of Amoz,  
saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.**

**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!**

### **A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.**

The first Saturday/Sunday of Advent appears on the horizon like the historic Halley's Comet zooming toward the unknown, leaving a trail of beauty and wonder for all of us to ponder in awe. "Let us walk in the light of the Lord" who spans the universe. "The Lord is God; He has given us light" – Psalm 118:27.

**Halley's Comet is arguably the most famous comet in history.**

"As a "periodic" comet, it returns to Earth's vicinity about every 75 years, making it possible for a person to see it twice in one's lifetime. It was last here in 1986, and it is projected to return in 2061. Occasionally, larger fragments from Halley's Comet create fireballs—extra-bright meteors that can light up large portions of the sky. These rare outbursts are unpredictable but are often the most memorable part of the shower of light." -Internet.

Isaiah's powerful and enlightening words flash into view as the prophet announces his words as a "fore-teller" and a "forth-teller." As a "foreteller, he offers hints, facts, and features of a Messiah from cradle to crown. It is a message for his own time and a prophecy of an age beyond our own like the projected return of Halley's Comet in 2061! The first five verses will not be fulfilled until Christ returns as Lord and King. As a "forth-teller," Isaiah proclaims that Zion will loom large over all nations, like a comet shooting across the skies. Everyone is called to peace, which is the power of love and not the love of power, prosperity, and salvation. The ruler will be a model of right living. There will be no wars, violence, or oppression especially because of the color of one's skin – "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." The world is tired from the burdens of war, violence, and oppression, and when will we listen and act upon the words of Isaiah? Isaiah concludes with the mandate, "Let us walk in the Light of the Lord" whose theme will be reflected in the second reading from Romans, let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of LIGHT. May we become a Comet penetrating and

illuminating the darkness of our hearts and making a pathway for Jesus to come into our hearts, heads, and hands in building the kingdom of God this Advent season.

#### Responsorial Psalm

##### Psalm 122: 1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

**R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

I rejoiced because they said to me,  
"We will go up to the house of the LORD."

And now we have set foot  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

**R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**  
Jerusalem, built as a city  
with compact unity.

To it the tribes go up,  
the tribes of the LORD.

**R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**  
According to the decree for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.  
In it are set up judgment seats,  
seats for the house of David.

**R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**  
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!  
May those who love you prosper!  
May peace be within your walls,  
prosperity in your buildings.

**R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**  
Because of my brothers and friends  
I will say, "Peace be within you!"  
Because of the house of the LORD, our God,  
I will pray for your good.

**R. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.**

#### Reading 2

### Romans 13:11-14

Brothers and sisters:

You know the time;

it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep.

**For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed;**

**the night is advanced, the day is at hand.**

**Let us then throw off the works of darkness**

**and put on the armor of light;**

let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day,

not in orgies and drunkenness,

not in promiscuity and lust,

not in rivalry and jealousy.

**But put on the Lord Jesus Christ,**

**and make no provision for the desires of the flesh.**

### **A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.**

In this reading from Romans, there is a movement from chapter 12, which consider the qualities and characteristics of a Christian, to this chapter 13 which flows into a call for action. We are challenged to live a genuine, authentic, and ethical life practicing the virtues of moral maturity – truth, goodness, honesty, integrity, faith, hope, and love - “**Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day, not in orgies and drunkenness.**” Paul does speak plainly and frankly; it is time to pursue a persistent and consistent life of moral and ethical behavior – as the fire and brimstone sermon goes,

**“You are going to hell unless you change your ways!” Paul decides to have his audience complete a moral/ethical survey, he invites you as well.**

**How moral am I? The following is a self-evaluation, 5 = yes to 1=no.**

- 1. I am very aware of the moral choices in my life. I do not give much thought to moral issues in my life.**

**5 -yes 4 3 2 1 - no**

- 2. I have a clear moral code I use to guide my choices. I am often confused and uncertain about my moral choices.**

**5 4 3 2 1**

- 3. I have consciously applied to my moral code. I have not done so.**

**The ethic of justice is built on the concept of impartiality, which is our moral obligation to treat everyone equally, with the same degree of consideration and respect we give to ourselves, unless there is some persuasive reason not to.**

**5 4 3 2 1**

- 4. The Ethic of Care is an important part of my moral code. The Ethic of Care is not an important part of my moral code.**



**The ethic of care expresses a moral responsibility to others, which is based on your ability to empathize, to imaginatively put yourself in the other person's situations, and to view the world from their perspectives.**

**5      4      3      2      1**

**5. I often “universalize” my choices      I rarely “universalize” my  
in deciding what to do.      choices in my moral choices.**

**Universalize – would you be willing for everyone to take this same action in similar circumstances?**

**5      4      3      2      1**

**6. I usually treat people with      I often treat people as a means  
respect for their autonomy.      to achieve my own interests.**

**Although Kant's suggestion that we treat people always as “ends” and never as a “means to our own ends may seem extreme, we should take his recommendation more seriously than we normally do.**

**5      4      3      2      1**

**7. I usually accept responsibility      I often avoid accepting  
for the moral choices I make.      responsibility for the choices**

**I make.**

**5      4      3      2      1**

**8. I actively strive to make others  
happy.**

**I do not spend much time doing  
so.**

**5      4      3      2      1**

**9. I have a reliable moral intuition  
that I trust.**

**I do not feel confident about my  
moral intuition.**

**5      4      3      2      1**

**10. I am determined to create myself  
as a moral person.**

**Becoming a moral person is not  
a conscious priority.**

**40 to 50 – very morally aware; 30-39 – moderately morally aware; 20-29 –  
morally aware; and 10-19 – comparatively morally unaware.**

**Corresponding to these “classical” and cardinal virtues previously  
mentioned (truth, goodness, honesty, integrity, faith, hope, and love) is the**

**biblical imagery of Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life as he identifies himself in the Gospel of John (14:6). At the beginning of this Advent season, Jesus is the true Light that enlightens and illumines the path of our spiritual journey into the world of tomorrow. These virtues are to be a leaven of salvation from the presence of sin within and around us as we hope, endure, and press on. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” – like a comet sailing through the universe on fire with the love the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

**It is interesting to note that the birthday of Jesus is celebrated on December 25 which is not the actual day on which He was born. Rather, it is the feast day of ancient Roman Saturnalia. On this day, the Romans rejoiced because the daylight was growing longer. The god of light was beginning to overcome the god of darkness. They lit huge bonfires, believing that this helped the Sun god to defeat the god of darkness. The early Christians believed this was an opportunity to celebrate the birthday of Jesus, the light of the world who will overcome the darkness with the coming of spring.**

**Alleluia**

Cf. Psalm 85:8

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Show us Lord, your love;  
and grant us your salvation.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples:

"As it was in the days of Noah,  
so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

In those days before the flood,  
they were eating and drinking,  
marrying and giving in marriage,  
up to the day that Noah entered the ark.

They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away.

So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man.

Two men will be out in the field;  
one will be taken, and one will be left.

Two women will be grinding at the mill;  
one will be taken, and one will be left.

**Therefore, stay awake!**

For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.

Be sure of this: if the master of the house  
had known the hour of night when the thief was coming,  
he would have stayed awake  
and not let his house be broken into.

**So too, you also must be prepared,  
for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."**

**A reflection, exegesis, and commentary on the scriptures.**

The Gospel of Matthew clearly reminds us to be vigilant, live a life of love, care, kindness, and social concern. Today's reading is a collection

of three vignettes: 1. Verses 37-40 portray those who have neglected to prepare – in what ways are we or will we prepare during our Advent journey; 2. Verses 41-42 highlight the values of choice and vigilance – what are we choosing to do about our lives? And 3. Verses 43-44 shock and startle us with the fact that Jesus is the “good thief” – will he catch us daydreaming or sleeping? The Gospel proclaims the message that this is the consummation of Jesus’ ministry – diligent service and loving expectancy should always and everywhere characterize the faith of a Christian. The threefold qualities of a committed and dedicated Christian are faithfulness, readiness, and diligence – sounding like a theme song for Advent.

It once happened that a man lit a lantern and walked on his way. But the light went out. He rekindled the lantern; but it went out again. This happened repeatedly. Finally, the man said to himself: “How long am I going to tire myself with this lantern? I shall wait until the sun is shining, and then I shall walk in the light of the sun.” As we begin this Advent time of waiting and expectation for the light, let us walk in the presence and lasting light of God’s only son – Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Do not be discouraged by December 21, the Winter Solstice – not the shortest day of the year, the shortest day of daylight.

Therefore, make the most of the shortest day of daylight, I did. My mother Verna was out shoveling snow which I am sure triggered my birth not in a snowbank, but within the bright lights of St. Vincent Hospital. “The Lord is God; He has given me life and light” – Psalm 118:27.

**Final prayer:** Today, we begin our Advent journey as we follow the light of God who manifests himself in the human drama of life. Your Son, Jesus pitches his tent among us, and the Holy Spirit lifts us up out of darkness into your life-giving presence and light that never dies.

Blessings upon you and your loved ones. -Roger J. Vanden Busch