

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Sunday, December 3, 2017

Readings: 1) Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7 2) 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 3) Mark 13:33-37

Sunday Liturgy

The FOCUS for today's Mass: **Stay awake and watch for the Lord.**

The ancient spiritual tradition of *memento mori* is one of calling to mind our own eventual death in order to focus on eternity and live a better life.

How easy it is to be lulled into the sleep of the world and to forget that there is a limit to our earthly time.

Advent is a time to prepare ourselves for Christ's return in glory. When the Lord comes, will he find us awake?

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first reading is Isaiah's poetic plea to God to remain with his people and continue to bless them despite their worldliness and their propensity toward sin. In the second reading, Saint Paul reminds the Corinthians that God is faithful, and will continue to sustain them until the day of salvation.

The Gospel rouses us from worldly sleep with the exhortation to *Watch*, for we do not know the day or the hour when the Lord will call upon us.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

PRIEST:

Heavenly Father, you rouse us from our worldly sleep.

**Knowing that you hear our voice,
we turn to you with our needs and longings.**

**For the Church, held close by the shepherd of Israel,
may all will be open to receiving God's merciful love.**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For the peoples of the world and for their leaders,
may they be aware of the gifts entrusted to them for the good of all.**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For those who are ill in mind and body;
may they experience the love and support of others.**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For those who have died;
may they enter joyfully and peacefully into the kingdom of heaven.**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

**For all who gather at this table,
may we rouse ourselves to cling to God this Advent.**

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

For our own personal intentions, (long pause).

We Pray to the Lord. People sing: Hear our prayer, hear our prayer.

PRIEST:

**Merciful God, we humbly ask you to hear our prayers and
prepare our hearts for the day of our salvation.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.