

Advent 2017

Week one

Friday, December 8

Prayers for candle-lighting

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. *[Light the candle]*

You meet those who gladly do right,

those who remember you in your ways.

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;

show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Mark 13:35

Jesus said, “Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

In the press of ordinary, daily life with its ups and downs, anxieties, desire for safety and predictability, it is easy to lose our proper sense of urgency for the things of God. Jesus, however, woke every day full of urgency for God, and God alone. To us, he says, “Wake up, and stay awake!” His powerful words call us to reflect upon what sorts of situations and commitments tend to keep us sleepy and inattentive to God’s call. Gently, he reaches over to rouse us, even now, to wake us up by the power of his holy love and the urgency of his compassion and justice.

For Reflection

Choose a two-hour period today to look consciously and attentively at what is happening around you through the eyes of God. Be fully awake both to God and to your own experience. What do you notice? Does your attentiveness cause you to understand something in a new way, or to do something differently?