

First Reading - Isaiah 2.2-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The time will come
when the mountain
of the temple
of the Lord
will be established
as the greatest
of all mountains,
high above the hills.
People of all nations will say,
'The teaching of the Lord
comes from Mount Zion,
and the word of the Lord
from Jerusalem.
So let us go up
to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house
of the God of Jacob,
to learn there
how to walk
in the right path.'
Then the Lord
will bring justice and peace
to the nations.
They will take their weapons of war,
their swords and their spears,
and they will re-work them
into ploughs
and pruning-hooks.
No longer
will nation
lift up sword
against nation;
neither will they
learn war
any more.
So come, O people of Jacob;
let us walk
in the light
of the Lord.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - Romans 13.11-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Now is the time
to be fully awake,
for our salvation
is closer to us now
than when we first
became believers.
The night is almost over -
the day is near.
So let us throw off
the works of darkness,
and put on
the armour of light.

Let there be no
drunkenness, indecency,
quarrelling, or jealousy,
or any other
work of darkness.
But let us live honourably,
as in the day,
in the light
of our Lord
Jesus Christ.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 24.36-44

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

Jesus said:
'About that day,
and that hour,
no one knows -
not the angels in heaven,
nor even the Son,
but only the Father.
In the days of Noah,
before the flood,
they were eating and drinking,
at banquets and weddings,
right up to the day
that Noah
entered the ark.
They knew nothing
until the flood came,
and swept them away.
So it will be
at the coming
of the Son of Man.
On that day, two men
will be working in a field;
one will be taken,
and one will be left.
Two women
will be grinding flour together;
one will be taken,
and one will be left.
So stay alert,
because you do not know
on what day
the Lord is coming.
If you knew
that a thief
was coming in the night,
you would stay awake,
to protect your home.
In the same way,
be ready,
for the Son of Man
is coming
at an unexpected hour.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.