



Our Lady of Peace

First Week of Advent

Mark 13:32-37-Only my Heavenly Father knows when the Son of Man will return.

Introduction



Introduction

The word “Advent” means coming. During Advent the readings tell us how God’s people longed for the arrival of the Saviour promised by God.

During this season we think about when Jesus will return and remember the first coming of Christ as a baby.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Alleluia Alleluia (all sing) x 3

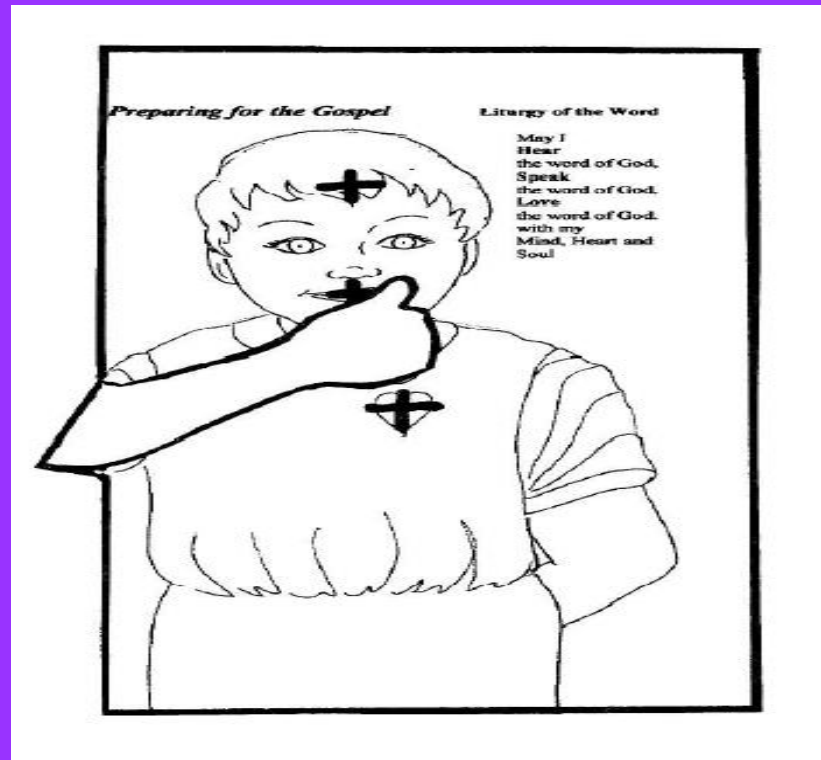
**Twinkle, twinkle little star,
Leading the wise men so far,
Travelling both day and night,
Guided by your light so bright,
Like the shepherds and the kings,
We have come your praise to sing.**

Alleluia! Alleluia Alleluia (all sing) x3

The Lord be with you
Response: And with your Spirit

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Response: Glory to you, O Lord



Gospel

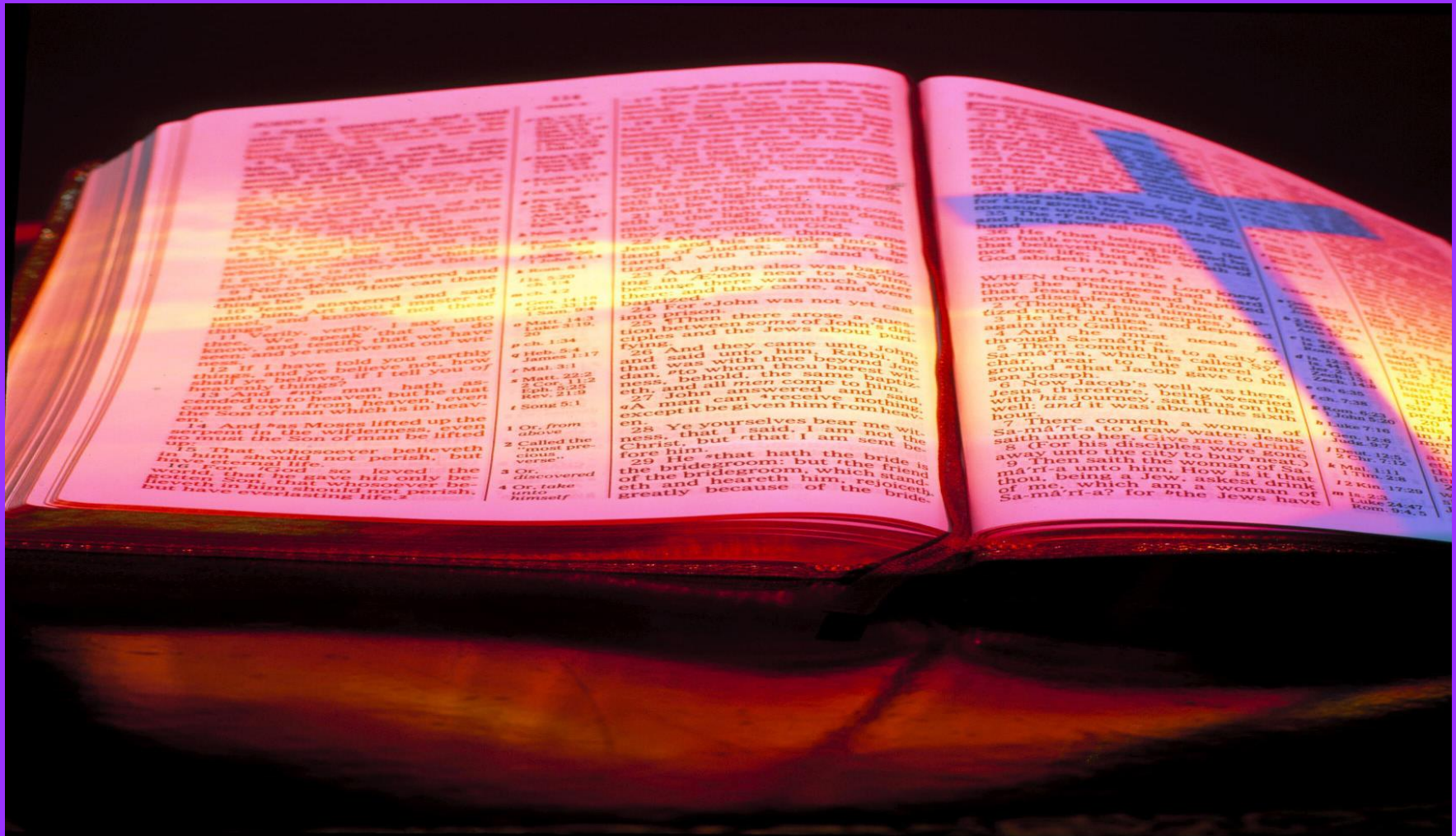


Matthew 24: 37-40, 44-45

One day Jesus said: “Long ago there was a great flood, and it swept all the people away, except for Noah. No-one had prepared for the flood, for they had not listened to Noah’s warnings. In the same way, you will not know when the Son of God will return, for only my heavenly Father knows this. Lead good lives so that when the time comes you are ready”.

The Gospel of the Lord

Response; Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



Reflection 1

We all know that the first coming of Jesus was as a tiny baby at Christmas. We also know that one day Jesus will return, although we have no idea when. During Advent we spend some time thinking about this second “coming”, and whether we will be ready when it happens.

Who knows when the world will end?

Only God knows the day or the time, so we must always be prepared .

Reflection 2

- Today's Gospel reminds us that we should always be ready for the second coming of Jesus at the end of time.
- What sort of life did Jesus tell us to lead? Jesus told us that we should all lead good lives so that when God calls us to be with Him in heaven we shall really be ready for happiness, which he has promised us.

Reflection 3

- The Advent Wreath is a German custom, which celebrates the coming of Christ, the “Light of the World”. The circle represents God’s unending love, just as a circle has no end and no beginning. Evergreen leaves represent God’s everlasting love, which never dies. The candles represent Jesus, the “Light” of the world. There is one candle for each Sunday of Advent and one for Christmas day itself.

Reflection 4

We light them in the following order:



Week 1 and 2 Purple candle

Week 3 Pink

The third Sunday of Advent

Week 4-Purple candle

White 5- The candle is lit on Christmas day itself to signify the birth of Jesus.

Meaning of the Advent Candles

The **first candle** symbolizes **hope** and is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival.

The **second candle** represents **faith** and is called "Bethlehem's Candle." Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David.

The **third candle** symbolizes **joy** and is called the "Shepherd's Candle." To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the colour rose signifies joy.

The **fourth candle** represents **peace** and is called the "Angel's Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace--He came to bring people close to God and to each other again.

The **fifth candle** represents **light and purity** and is called "Christ's candle." It is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day.

Advent Wreath



Prayer



Closing Prayer

Dearest Jesus,
We ask you to send your Spirit to guide us,
So that we will lead good lives,
And be ready to greet you when you return.

With Christ in our hearts, together we grow.
Amen

Acknowledgement

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