

Jesus said to his disciples.
"Stay awake! Keep watch!
You do not know the day
when your Lord will come.
But you can be sure of this.
If the owners of a house knew
at what time a thief would be coming,
they would stay awake and keep watch.
They would not allow the thief to break into their house.
"So you, too, must be prepared.
The Lord will come at a time you do not expect."

GOD'S WORD

FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT
Year A
Adapted from
Matthew 24:42-44



We Listen

What do you think
Jesus meant when
he told his friends,
"Be ready"?
What might the
friends have done?

We Reflect

How would you get
ready for a special
guest to come
to you?
What feelings
would you have
as you wait for
your guest?

We Respond

What would you like
to do to prepare for
the celebration of
Jesus' coming?
What might please
Jesus most?

PSALM 85

Lord, show us your kindness. Grant us your salvation.

God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth,
to a maiden engaged to a man named Joseph.
The maiden's name was Mary.
The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored daughter!
The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women."
Mary was deeply troubled; she wondered what he meant.
The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary.
You have found favor with God.
You will have a son, whom you will name Jesus."
Mary said to the angel,
"How can this be, since I am not married?"
The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you.
Your holy child will be called the Son of God.
Your cousin, Elizabeth, is also going to have a baby,
although she may seem too old.
For nothing is impossible with God."
And Mary answered, "I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me as you have said."

GOD'S WORD

IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
December 8
Adapted from
Luke 1:26-38



We Listen

How do you think
Mary felt when the
angel told her that
her baby would be
the Son of God?
What might she
have said to her
parents?

We Reflect

Think of a time
when you made a
difficult choice.
What was that like
for you?

We Respond

Mary placed her
trust in God. How
can the example of
Mary help you when
you have a difficult
choice in the future?

MAGNIFICAT

My soul proclaims the Lord's greatness
and my spirit rejoices in God my savior.

When John the Baptist was in prison,
he heard about the things Jesus was doing.

So he sent his followers to ask him:
"Are you the Messiah we have been waiting for,
or should we expect someone else?"

Jesus said to them, "Go back and tell John
what you hear and see:

People who were blind can see,
people who were lame can walk,
people who had leprosy are healed,
people who were dead are raised to life,
and the Good News is being preached to the poor."

Then Jesus asked:

"What did you go out to the desert to see?

A reed blown by the wind? No?

A man dressed in fine clothes? No? A prophet?

Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet.

John was the one about whom the Scriptures say:

'I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

GOD'S WORD

THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

Year A

*Adapted from
Matthew 11:2-6*



We Listen

If you were one of
John's messengers,
how would you
have felt about
what Jesus told you
to tell John?

We Reflect

In what ways are the
words of Jesus still
coming true today?
Who are helping the
blind to see, the
lame to walk, the
sick to be healed
and so forth?

We Respond

What would the
world be like if the
healing love of
Jesus touched
everyone?
In what way might
you bring healing
to another?

PSALM 146

Lord Jesus, come, save us. Heal us. Set us free.