

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL DECEMBER 5, 2016

The Rev. Anthony Rivera, Director of Admissions

SCRIPTURE

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4 But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

DEVOTIONAL

Each Advent season, Christians around the world expectantly and excitedly look forward to the moment of celebrating the arrival of the Christ—the one born to save God's people from their sins. The house is freshly painted, curtains are changed, new plates are on the table, and songs of glad tidings fill the air. Something exciting is in the air! Jesus is soon to be born!

Today's reading holds a sense of excitement, but with a twist; it is a twist, not pointing to a past event but to one yet to happen. It is the arrival of the majestic Risen One; no longer a child, but Lord.

Be expectant, not just this Advent season, but also every day! Be "children of light and children of the day" in the midst of societal darkness. Your light, and life, will point to the One who will come . . . again!

PRAYER

Blessed Trinity, as we expectantly and excitedly look forward to the moment of celebrating the Advent of the Christ child, may we be just as expectant and excited about the return of the Christ King. Help us to be children of light as we wait for his glorious appearance.

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