



---

# BE READY, FOR THE SON OF MAN COMES

---

Sermon | Romans 13:8-14 | Matthew 24:36-44 |  
First Sunday of Advent



**NOVEMBER 29, 2025**  
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
89, Mountainview Rd. S. Georgetown ON

## **Be Ready, For the Son of Man Comes!**

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

This morning's sermon is drawn from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew and Saint Paul's Epistle to Romans.

---

Last Saturday we heard that Jesus wraps us in His tender mercy and eternal promise.

When we hear this, the Word of God, it creates faith in us that clings to His promises.

I must confess; first in hearing Jesus' assurance, and then in preaching it, I found rest—rest in the gift of good sleep.

But now it has been six days and seven nights since we last heard these words.

And let me tell you something else—throughout this past week something kept urging me not to *sleep over* Jesus' assurance.

And today it is made clear. Saint Paul makes it apparent!

In his Epistle to Romans, in what we read today, Saint Paul exhorts—he exhorts both you and me together.

He says, "*the hour has come..... stay awake.*" (Rom. 13:11)

And Paul's exhortation is not new—it echoes the very words of our Lord from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew, where Jesus says, "*Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord comes*" (Matthew 24:42).

This imperative calls us not to fall *asleep*—especially after hearing Jesus' blessed assurance. His command to *stay awake* flows out of His promise, given to safeguard us from drifting away.

In fact, this command of our Lord is not directed at unbelievers, but at those to whom He has already promised to wrap in His love and mercy.

Does it sound strange?

Perhaps at first it does.

For we are accustomed to thinking that commands are given only to the disobedient. But here our Lord speaks to those who are already His own — those wrapped in His mercy.

And He rightly commands us, knowing full well that in our sinful selves we may be lured to hum the world's tune: *the cry to break free from God's ways and to return to old sinful paths.*

Just like the ancient Israelites, who in their bodies left Egypt, and were sojourning towards the Promised Land, yet in their hearts they longed to go back.

Saint Paul testifies to this same struggle in Romans chapter seven. He writes: *“For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing”* (Romans 7:19).

Dear friends of Immanuel, Advent, then, is the season of wakefulness. It beckons us to the Light.

And we need this beckoning time and again.

- Though we are wrapped in Christ, we may fall asleep to negligence. Neglecting prayer, neglecting the Word, neglecting the neighbour who needs our care.
- Though we are clothed in His mercy, we may fall asleep to complacency. Thinking our faith needs no tending. As if the Christian life were a one-time event rather than a daily walk.

- Though we are called children of the day, we may fall asleep to distractions of this world. The endless busyness, the glow of countless screens. The flashy, glamorous appeal of this world that blinds our vision from the true Light. The Light that is Life (John 1:4).

The first Sunday of Advent reminds us that the hour has come to awaken from such sleep.

As we light the first purple candle of Hope today, we anticipate our Lord's return.

Filled with this expectation, we are reminded that He comes at an hour we do not expect (Matthew 24:44).

He comes like a thief who breaks in during the thick of the night.

I will never forget the night my home was visited by a thief.

I had washed my clothes and left them to dry overnight on the clothesline in the courtyard. In the morning, Shamona rushed in from the courtyard, her voice sharp with alarm, shouting that something was wrong.

A few garments had vanished!

As we hurried outside, we saw: my brand-new trousers and a shirt were gone.

The thief hadn't taken everything — *only* what seemed most desirable to him. It was as if he had browsed through our wardrobe under the stars, choosing carefully, leaving the rest behind.

Just as the thief in my courtyard chose only certain garments, so too our Lord speaks of a coming when one will be taken and another left. "*Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left*" (Matthew 24:40).

*“Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left” (Matthew 24:41).*

But unlike the thief who comes to *steal*, the Son of Man comes to *claim* His very own — those already wrapped in His mercy.

His selectiveness is not our loss, but Life. Life to the fullest, Life eternal.

If only I had known at what hour the thief would come to steal my clothes, I would have stayed awake and guarded them, and my garments would not have been stolen.

But unlike the thief who leaves us in grief and loss, our Lord commands us to *stay awake* and be *watchful*.

For He is merciful: Jesus comes not to destroy, but to build us up toward perfection. He comes not to make us poorer, but to awaken us to riches eternal!

The Son of Man comes to take His very own:

- The ones whom Christ awakens from the sleep of gluttony, teaching them to hunger for righteousness.
- Those whom He rouses from the sleep of drunkenness, filling them instead with His Spirit.
- Those He calls out of the sleep of unchastity, clothing them in purity and honour.
- The ones He stirs from the slumber of rivalry and hatred, setting their hearts on love and care.

The Son of Man comes to gather His very own—those whom He awakens and holds fast in His mercy.

Therefore, beloved in Christ, let us put on the Lord Jesus Christ, just as Saint Paul exhorts (Romans 13:14).

Christ Himself is our garment, our covering, our righteousness. Being wrapped in Christ, we learn to stay awake in the hope of the Light.

Light that brings Life. And this Light of Life is given here and now at His table.

As we commune at the Lord's table today, let us give thanks for the gift of His body and blood that keep us watchful. As we eat the bread, Jesus wraps us in His righteousness. As we drink from the cup, His blood renews us, granting us strength to walk steadily, eyes fixed on Him as He comes again.

I wish you all a blessed Advent. May this season keep us in the hope of our salvation that is in Christ Jesus, who wraps us in His mercy and awakens us as to live as His very own. Amen.

Now may the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Him. Amen.

Vijay Samuel