

Advent Prayer of Confession

In a moment of quiet, let us confess to God our fear, our sin, our inattentiveness to Christ's coming . . .

Because we are busy to prepare for the holidays,
but lazy to prepare for your coming,
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Because we are awake with our buying & selling
but asleep with our prayer,
Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

Because we have forgotten the Advent disciplines,
because they are crowded out by end of year functions
and Christmas celebrations that arrive too early,
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

Listen to the word of the Apostle:

I give thanks to God always because of the grace that has been given to you in Jesus Christ . . . God will strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of Christ Jesus.

I Cor 1.4, 8

Christ has this word of grace, then, for everyone who acknowledges their lostness and calls out to God for mercy and help in finding the path to life once more: Your sins are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

A Litany of Mission for Advent

Lord, give us courage to prepare for your coming.

When we are tempted to busyness,
slow our bodies and still our hearts.

When we are tempted to enrich ourselves with *things*,
give us a longing for the riches of your kingdom.

When we are tempted to blow our savings
on people who lack for nothing,

give us hearts to serve the poor and the destitute.

When we are tempted to celebrate Christmas too early,
show us the joy of prayer and of waiting.

Lord, give us courage,
to wait for you in faith.