

December 2, 2007
Sunday of the First Week of Advent

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalms 122: 1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:37-44

They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again.

Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.

During the first weeks of Advent, we focus on the 1st reading with the gospel flowing out of that reading. During the second part of Advent, it is reversed. The words, *Come Lord Jesus*, become my Advent prayer. These 3 simple words remind me to stay awake, to anticipate, to wait—to wait for the promise of God to come to fulfillment in the birth and life of Jesus. So, in the midst of the busiest season in the year, I wait to celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world. I wait to be reminded that God has a Plan for me. But mostly, I wait to see what needs to be born in me so I might cooperate with that Plan. What is the promise of God, I ask. How does that translate into everyday language in an ordinary life? That is the question that frames my prayer as I enter this Advent season. As I read the 1st reading of today, I am drawn to God's promise of peace. It strikes me that Jesus was born into a chaotic world of political unrest, probably not much different than our world today. He brought with him a promise of peace then; he brings the same promise today. I look around and see a world badly in need of peace. I see war, I see families estranged, I see violence, and yet, in the midst of all that, I also see the promise of God. I see God's face in the efforts of those who serve the poor and challenge the status quo without regard of personal cost. That kind of gospel response challenges me to look at my beliefs and my behaviors. My prayer for today becomes, *Lord, what needs to be born in me so that I too might be a peacemaker in the world I live in?*

Let God's promises shine on your problems.

Corrie Ten Boom