

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of advent

Unlike the street corner prophet who predicts the exact hour of the end, today's readings also warn of the end, but do not give an exact time line.

In the first reading, Isaiah's end time would proclaim Jerusalem as the center of god's reign on earth. God's law must be lived and not just studied, as was done in the temple. True peace could only become a reality when God's law took priority in the lives of the people. To live in harmony would "turn swords into plowshares."

In the second reading, early Christians believed they were already living in the end time. They were convinced that the second coming would follow shortly after the Resurrection event. Paul warned to not be scantily clad sleepers. They must live as they had truly "put on the Lord Jesus Christ."

The Gospel tells us no one knows the day or the time when the end will come. It is in everyone's best interest to be in a constant state of preparedness. Otherwise, you might end up like Noah's neighbors who weren't ready to sail when the waters came. "The Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour" warns Jesus. Only those who are awake and ready will enjoy the fullness of the reign of God.