

# Scripture Prayer For The Week

"Once...  
when Jesus...  
was praying alone..." (Luke 9:18)



Artwork Dorothy Woodward

## Advent Year A Week 1

**We Gather:** In the prayer space, have the bible opened at the Gospel reading. Four candles in the Advent colours of mauve or blue could be arranged on the stand. Have a taper ready for lighting the first candle. Light the first candle as the Leader begins.

**Leader:** Open our hearts and mind to your word, O God.  
**All:** And we will taste your goodness and mercy.

**We Listen:** The Gospel Matthew 24:37-44

Read the gospel passage reflectively. After a time of silent reflection, the line from scripture below could be repeated and the short commentary read.

**"Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming."**

**Commentary:**

The whole unfolding of the mystery of Coming of Christ is found not in the waiting and the birth, but as the year shapes up later in the Resurrection and Ascension. Yes, that's what we are staying awake for and being alert for: our journey in life towards the final fullness of life in God that is the destiny for all people. Yet we have to start somewhere. Advent is good. Stay awake, on with the journey, God's word our guide!

**We Respond:** "Keep awake.... for the coming of the Lord."

In silence, reflect on the questions below? You may wish to have a time of brief sharing.

**How has this Gospel verse touched feelings of hope or fear?**

- How do we understand the "coming of the Lord"?
- How does "stay awake" offer a choice for us to partner with Jesus towards hope and meaning in our lives?
- Why should I offer this hope to my family, my students?

**Song:** Come to Set Us Free (Bernadette Farrell-AOV1) or Come to Us (Steve Angrisano-Spirit & Song-OCP)

**We Go Forth:**

God, you call us to be alert and to choose to walk in your ways. May we think deeply this Advent of the challenge this brings to change our thoughts and actions. May we see in the plan of life you unfold before us, a hope and a peace that never fails. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Leader:** Let us go in the hope of Christ.  
**All:** Thanks be to God.