

Litany for Christ's Coming

A. As the days of Advent hasten on and we draw nearer to the day of Christ's coming, let us pray with fervent hearts for the needs of the world:

C. Come, Lord Jesus, and do not tarry.

A. Lord Christ, in joy and anticipation, we await your coming with lamps lighted and hearts aglow with faith.

C. Come now and illumine the whole universe.

A. All creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.

C. Come soon and save those who wait in darkness.

A. The suffering and the poor look to you for their hope.

C. Come and raise us to glory in your presence.

A. The troubled and oppressed have no where to turn but to you.

C. Come quickly and banish the powers of evil and darkness around us.

A. The sick and weary, the dying and faint-hearted cry out in their despair.

C. Come and bring us eternal wholeness and health.

A. Even the martyrs and the blessed dead make their plea, "O Lord, how long?"

C. Come now and give us eternal life.

A. The Spirit and the Church cry out:

C. Come, Lord Jesus.

A. All those who await your appearance pray:

C. Come, Lord Jesus.

A. The whole creation pleads:

C. Come, Lord Jesus.

P. Hearken to the prayers of your servants, Lord Jesus. By the sign of the manger of Bethlehem, give us hope in the promise of your return. Come quickly, Lord, and bring us to the joys of heaven, where we will praise you with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.

C. Amen

Mary's dream.

I had a dream, Joseph: I don't understand it,

but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our son.

The people in my dream had been preparing for about 6 weeks.

They had decorated the house and bought new clothes.

They'd gone shopping many times and bought many elaborate gifts.

It was peculiar, though, because the presents weren't for our son.

They wrapped them in beautiful paper and stacked them under a tree.

That's right Joseph, a tree, right inside their homes!

They'd decorated the tree with sparkling ornaments.

There was a figure like an angel on top of the tree.

Everyone was laughing and happy.

They gave the gifts to each other, Joseph, not to our son. I don't think they even knew him.

They never mentioned his name.

I had the strangest feeling that, if our son Jesus

had gone to this celebration, he would have been intruding.

How sad for someone not to be wanted at his own birthday party!

I'm glad it was only a dream.

Imagine how awful Joseph, if it had been real.