



O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent
your messenger to prepare your way before you;
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Sunday Advent III

From the 1st to the 21st century, the Christian community has struggled with that strand of the tradition that proclaimed a return of Jesus but at an unknown time. Paul built his approach to the gospel around this apocalyptic expectation as happening in the immediate future but the writings from the end of the apostolic era show deep disillusionment with this expectation.

Whatever we make of this tradition in our day, its critical importance is that it focuses the ethical seriousness of every specific moment in our lives. Over every minute of every day hangs the question, what if this is the last moment, the return of Jesus? Will I (we) be found acceptable in what we are and are doing in this moment?

Collect for the third week in Advent