

***Keeping Vigil
for Christ's
Coming in Glory***

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The Lord calls us to earnestly desire and wait for Christ’s coming in glory.

Aware that he was to depart and go to the Father, Jesus urged his followers to be ready for his return, warning them “For you do not know on which day your Lord will come” (Matthew 24:42).

Where I am going, you cannot follow me now, though you will follow later (John 13:36).

I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be (John 14:3).

Therefore, be watchful and prepared, “for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come” (Matthew 24:44).

“Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival” (Luke 12:37).

Jesus asks in Luke 18:8, “when the Son of man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

Faith-filled expectancy and readiness for his coming is not something that the Church can sustain on its own. So, in every generation, the Spirit renews the blessed hope of the Church. The Spirit reminds us what the Word of God says. Reading the following Scripture passages strengthens our hope of his return.

Matthew 5:1-12	Beatitudes
Luke 9:28-36	Transfiguration
Acts 1:6-12	Christ’s Ascension
Mark 13:19-27	The Coming of the Son of Man
Matthew 25:1-13	Parable of the Ten Virgins
Ephesians 1:3-14, 18-23	God’s Plan of Salvation
Romans 8:14-25	Destiny of Glory
1 Corinthians 15:51-58	Resurrection of the Dead
Revelation 21:1-8	New Heaven and New Earth

The Spirit stirs in the Church a deeper desire for Christ’s second coming.

The longings and yearnings that the Holy Spirit enkindles in the hearts of believers express the deepest desires of the Father’s heart.

All who are thirsty say:	Come, Lord Jesus.
The Body of Christ cries:	Come, Lord Jesus.
All creation cries:	Come, Lord Jesus.

The Spirit says:	Come!
The Bride says:	Come!

Let us pray:

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to your promises; your faithful people rejoice in hope of the Savior’s coming and look forward with longing to his return at the end of this age. Help us to drink of his truth, and expand our hearts with the joy of his promises, so that we may serve you in constant hope. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

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The reference to the Transfiguration as a foretaste of Christ’s glorious coming is from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 556. https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_P1L.HTM

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You are the living bread that
came down from heaven, Lord Jesus, come in glory.
You are the good shepherd, who lays down
his life for the sheep,
You are the resurrection and the life,
You are the way, the truth and the life,
You are the true vine in the Father's vineyard,
You will come on the clouds of heaven,
You are coming at an hour known only to the Father,
You will come in glory to judge the living and the dead,

From all sin and temptation, Lord, deliver us.
From the valley of darkness and of death,
From the bondages of this world,
From the clutches of the Evil One,
From all deception,
From all discouragement,
From all bondage to decay,
From all disdain for the body and material creation,
From all exclusion of the Jewish people,
From all narrowness of spirit,
From all judgmentalism,
From every distraction,

To restore everything that the Father
has promised, Come, Lord Jesus.
To restore the kingdom to Israel,
To raise the just to everlasting life,
To rule the earth in righteousness,
To gather the multitude of the redeemed from every
tribe, and language and people and nation,
To obtain for all creation the glorious liberty of the
children of God,
To receive the Bride prepared from all ages,

Leader: The Father shares with us His longing for the full manifestation of His Son's glory and for him to be recognized as the One in whom "dwells the whole fullness of the deity bodily" (Colossians 2: 9).

People: The Church longs to behold the Lord Jesus Christ, "face to face" (1 Corinthians 13: 12), in all His glory.

Leader: The Father shares with us His longing for the descent of "the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband" (Revelation 21: 2).

People: The Church longs for the everlasting embrace of her Bridegroom. Robed in glory and surrounded by the heavenly host, the Church will sing blessing and honor, glory and might to "the one who sits on the throne and to the Lamb" (Revelation 5: 13).

Leader: The Father shares with us His longing for the total realization of the Church's prayer, "thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven".

People: The Church longs for the full visible reign of the King where true justice and peace shall flourish and those who "hunger and thirst for righteousness ... will be satisfied" (Matthew 5: 6).

Leader: The Father shares with us His longing for the fullness of salvation, made complete in the resurrection of the dead.

People: The Church longs for the full and permanent victory over sin, Satan and death that will be shown forth in the resurrection of the body. The Church longs for her sons and daughters to be raised (1 Corinthians 15: 44) and "clothed with our heavenly habitation" (2 Corinthians 5: 2).

Leader: The Father shares with us His longing for the renewal and restoration of all things (Matthew 19: 28; Acts 3: 21) in the "new heavens and a new earth" (2 Peter 3: 13).

People: The Church voices creation's longing to be "set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God" (Romans 8: 21).

Leader: These forms of longing are divine in origin; they come from the heart of God Himself. The Church receives these longings through the Holy Spirit.

People: The Church cannot sustain its longing nor prepare for the coming of Christ on its own. The Church needs to grow ever more docile to the Holy Spirit.

Leader: Let the Church implore the Father for a deeper filling of the Holy Spirit.

(People sing an appropriate song to the Holy Spirit.)

Leader: May the Spirit strengthen your hearts in holiness to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

Litany for the Coming of the Lord in Glory

Son of the living God: Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Son of Abraham:

Son of David:

Son of Mary:

Messiah of Israel:

You are the beloved Son with whom
the Father is well pleased, Lord Jesus, come in glory.

You are the Lord of the Sabbath,

You hold the seven stars in your right hand,

You walk among the seven golden lampstands,

You are the First and the Last, Lord Jesus, come in glory.

You are the Alpha and the Omega,

You died and you came to life,

You hold the sharp two-edged sword,

Your eyes are like blazing fire,

Your feet are like burnished bronze,

You hold the seven spirits of God and the seven Stars,

You are holy and true,

You hold the key of David,

You are the Amen, the faithful and true witness,

You are the ruler of God's creation,

You are the Lamb of God, who was slain,

standing in the center of the throne,

You are the Lion of the Tribe of Judah,

You are worthy to receive power and wealth and wisdom

and strength, and honor and glory and praise,

You are the King of Kings and Lord of Lords,

You are the new Adam,

You are the Root and Offspring of David,

You are the bright morning star,

You are the firstborn among many brothers,

You are our righteousness, holiness and redemption,

You are the firstborn over all creation,

You are the first-fruits from the dead,

You are the one mediator between God and men,

You are heir of all things,

You are the faithful Son over God's house,

You are the high priest who has sat down at

the right hand of the Majesty in heaven,

You are the Righteous One, who speaks to

the Father in our defense,

You are the atoning sacrifice for our sins,

You are the mediator of a new covenant,

You are the author and perfecter of our faith,

You are the Lamb of God, who takes away

the sin of the world,