

## Advent 2025: Stir up our hearts

*“Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.”*

We'll take ourselves on a whirlwind tour of Matthew's 'Last times' during Jesus' last days: It's Advent and it's Passion: Know that we don't know! [Chapter 24!]

First, let's remember the 'Laborers' (and the 'slackers') in the Vineyard Mt. 20:1-16 and then read Mt. 22:1-14—Parable of the Marriage Feast [The real Emperor's 'New Clothes for all.']

I. Advent 1 Gospel Mt. 24:36-44: Jesus as 'thief' & learning to 'know what we don't know'

II. Come thou unexpected Jesus Mt. 24:44-51 unknown unknown! [YIKES]

III. Mt. 25:1-13 The five wise and five foolish bridesmaids. Cantata 140! [We'll have to wait until November 2026 to hear preaching on this text.] We'll listen and learn and the music will wake us up. [No need to call them virgins: They're Bridesmaids and f.y.i: Sleep is O.K.!]

IV. Mt. 25:14-30 The Talents. THE KNOWN KNOWN: 'I knew you were a harsh man'. [Mt.24:51!] [Capon's take on this crazy 'wonderful' parable]. ['hidden God' vs. 'revealed']

V. Mt. 25:31-46: THE LEASTEST! We'll read this carefully: NB: The bestest are bested.

VI. Mt. 26:29: "You will all be scandalized. You will all be deserters!" [The cross is the great offense.]

VII. Passion (Mt. 26:30 ff) [But: It's Advent, so Advent II & III it's the Baptist; Advent IV it's Joseph]

STIR UP OUR HEARTS, O LORD, AND COME! (II Corinthians 6:12: 'Open wide your hearts!')

P.S. In Advent it's good to remember: The **'Known Known'**

*'Love Caused Thine Incarnation*

*Love brought Thee down to me.*

*Thy Thirst for My Salvation*

*Procured my Liberty.*

*Oh, Love beyond all Telling*

*That caused Thee to Embrace*

*In Love, All Loves Excelling*

*Our Lost and Fallen Race.'* [Paul Gerhardt]