

ADVENT 1

THE COLLECT

ALMIGHTY God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and ever. Amen.



1. How many Sundays are there in Advent, and what object has the Church in appointing them?
A. Four. They are to prepare us for the religious commemoration of the Advent of Christ in the flesh, which takes place at Christmas, *and also* to direct our thoughts to His *second* coming.
2. To whom is this Collect for the first Sunday in Advent addressed, and for what purpose do we ask His grace?
A. The Collect is addressed to _____
B. We ask His grace that we may cast away the _____ and put on the _____.
3. Read Galatians 5:19-21, and list the (17) works of darkness on another page.
4. Jesus Christ came to visit the earth in great _____ and He will come on the last day in His glorious _____.

INTRODUCTION

The Collect of this week prays that we may put on an armor. Who wears armor? Soldiers. Whose soldiers are we? Christ's. Then whose armor shall we wear? Christ's. What is it called? The Armor of Light.

I. PREPARATION FOR THE ARMOR.

1. Something to be cast off. Armor should not be put over a diseased body. Disease must be cured, and a weak body must be strengthened. When night is past we throw off our bed clothes; the soldier throws off his blanket. What is this season? Advent—when we think of Christ “coming to” us. Night is passing, day is coming. Souls must be cleansed, healed, restored and strengthened by Christ. Sin must be cast away. Darkness and night stand for sin and evil. This time calls us to put off sins. “Cast off the works of darkness.”

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READ: Ephesians 6:10-19

II. THE DEFENSIVE PARTS OF THE ARMOR.

1. Breastplate of _____. (for passive defense)
It protects the heart, the seat of life and conscience. Sin is like holes in the breastplate.
2. Helmet of _____. (for passive defense)
This covers the head. We must trust in Christ's redemption and in His promises. The devil tempts us with evil thoughts and with doubts of our salvation.
3. Shield of _____. (for active defense)
Really Christ is our shield (Gen 15:1), but faith uses Him.
So:
Christ's Righteousness is our Defense.
Christ's Salvation is our Defense.
Christ Himself is our Defense.

*To put on the Armor of Light is to put on
the Lord Jesus Christ as the Epistle tells us.*

III. THE "SERVICE" PARTS OF THE ARMOR.

1. Belt of _____. We must be braced up, ready to fight and work, by God's truth, and by being true and truthful ourselves.
2. Shoes of _____. We can only fight if we have a firm footing. This is supplied by the Gospel.
3. Sword of _____ (which is Sacred Scripture) is our one offensive weapon. See how Christ, our Captain, used the sword of the Spirit when the devil tempted Him.

IV. THE PURPOSE OF OUR ARMOR.

1. To defend us against the assaults and temptations of the Evil One.
2. So that we may be Christ's faithful Soldiers and Servants
3. And stand ready for our Lord when He comes (just as soldiers put on their armor, and have it bright and clean as they watch for their general).



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