Dear Friends in Ministry,

We live in hope. This short phrase has been my unceasing mantra for the past few months. As we continue to grapple with unprecedented pastoral realities, we are called to live in the hope promised by Christ. This hope is not individualistic, nor is it grounded in fanfare and exultation. Instead, this hope is profoundly communal and rooted in the humility and vulnerability of self-gift.

Christ’s example of self-gift shows us how to be bearers of this hope. We bear hope when we lower our own voices to listen to people whose voices might typically be ignored or forgotten. We bear hope when we name our participation in systems of sin and injustice. We bear hope when we recognize our own limitations and instead rely on the experiences and expertise of others. We bear hope when we celebrate liturgy, sent forth to be Christ for others.

Even so, living in hope is not always easy. If we are honest, we might even admit that it is rather challenging. This is because continuing the work of the resurrection is not easy. The Scripture we encounter throughout Ordinary Time reminds us of this reality, as the followers of Jesus continue to ask questions and discern how this newfound relationship and experience invite them to live differently. We ask ourselves these same questions today.

As a Christian community we are called to support each other throughout this process. In a special way, Liturgical Press is honored to continue to assist you and your community as we strive to share this hope in Christ. You will notice that this catalog is arranged by interest group and pastoral ministry, making both our new releases and our favorite resources accessible and easy to find. The table of contents and headers on each page note which offerings might best support you in your specific role.

Know of our continued prayers for you from Collegeville, Minnesota.

Most sincerely,

John T. Kyler
General Editor
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Catherine Upchurch

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Catherine Upchurch is the former director of Little Rock Scripture Study and the general editor of the Little Rock Catholic Study Bible. Catherine speaks and writes regularly on a variety of biblical and spiritual topics. She is the author of several books in the Alive in the Word series, including Mary: Favored by God; Christmas: Season of Wonder and Hope; and Hospitality: Welcoming the Stranger. She is also a contributor to Give Us This Day published by Liturgical Press.

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Catherine Upchurch; Traducido por Luis Baudry-Simón

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28 de noviembre: Primer domingo de Adviento

Sacude la somnolencia

Lecturas: Jer 33, 14-16; 1 Tes 3, 12-4, 2; Lc 21, 25-28, 34-36

Ecritura:
“Estén alerta, para que los vicios, la embriaguez y las preocupaciones de esta vida no entorpezcan su mente y aquel día los sorprenda desprevenidos…” (Lc 21, 34)

Reflexión: Cuando viajamos con mi hermano y su familia hace algunos años, paramos en una tienda de comestibles local conocida por su comedero de trastienda y montones de pescado servidos al estilo familiar. En la noche nos sentamos en una simple mesa; estábamos totalmente exhaustos después de un día de viaje. Llenamos los platos de comida, antes de que la cabeza nos cayera contra el hombro, y luego en poco tiempo nos quedamos acostados, pesaditos y cansados. Después de la cena, nos derrumbaron en nuestras camas. Esa clase de somnolencia que tendremos una y otra vez a medida que nos acercamos a la cama. Esas pesadillas que duran toda la noche, sin perder el pensamiento. Desearíamos que uno de los truismos de nuestras vidas, Es.

November 28: First Sunday of Advent

Shake Off the Drowsiness


Scripture:
“Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy…”
(Luke 21:34)

Reflection: When traveling with my brother and his family some years ago, we stopped in a local grocery store known for its back-room diner and piles of fish served family style. The evening we sat down there at a simple table, we were happily exhausted after a day in the sun, and when the plates of food arrived we dug in. It wasn’t long before my young nephew’s head was bobbing as he fought off sleep. He’d catch himself and sit up straight, and then in no time at all he’d be bobbing drowsily again. His heavy eyelids were our signal to get the kids to bed. We adults weren’t far behind. This kind of drowsiness is the kind we long for, knowing we’ll have a good night’s sleep ahead.

The drowsiness that Jesus warns against is the kind that allows us to shut our eyes, not from weariness, but out of willful ignorance, or laziness, or even selfishness. We wish we could avoid the difficult situations in our lives. We wish we would not have to do the hard work of this life. We want to turn off the news and ignore the needs of those whose needs make us uncomfortable.

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Amy Ekeh is the director of Little Rock Scripture Study. She is the author of Finding Peace: Letting Go of Stress and Worry and Lent: Season of Transformation.
Rev. Thomas D. Stegman, SJ, is the author of many books and is dean and professor of New Testament at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.

After three decades as an English professor at Idaho State University, author Susan Swetnam retired to her current career as a licensed massage therapist.

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Brendan Byrne, SJ, is a professor of New Testament at Jesuit Theological College, within the United Faculty of Theology, Parkville, Melbourne, Australia.
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Mahri Leonard-Fleckman is assistant professor of Hebrew Bible in the Religious Studies Department at the College of the Holy Cross. She is a contributor to Give Us This Day (Liturgical Press), the co-author of The Book of Ruth in the Wisdom Commentary Series (Liturgical Press), and the author of The House of David: Between Political Formation and Literary Revision (Fortress Press). Leonard-Fleckman has years of experience as a Bible study facilitator at her home parish in Worcester, Massachusetts.

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Paul Turner is pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City, Missouri, and director of the Office of Divine Worship for the Diocese of Kansas City–St. Joseph. He holds a doctorate in sacred theology from Sant’ Anselmo in Rome. He is a contributor to Give Us This Day.
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