

Responsive Reading

An Alarm Is Sounded

Built around the final words of Christ

Listen! The cross day Friday is nearly come. Can you not already hear the sounds of hammer and nail? Can you not already see the form of a broken and dying man? Can you not smell, even now, the smell of death gathering near? See, his lips are moving. Hear him already saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

We are not ready!

But Christ comes, ready or not. When we are not looking, when we are falling asleep in church, when we are floating on a sea of drifting thoughts, when we waste our moments counting the threads on our coats and the heads in the pews, just then... *Christ!*

We are not ready!

Get ready! Get real. Get God back in your life. For Lent is a time to get ready. It is a time to rethink, relive, reorient our lives. This is a God given time, a *kyros* moment. Wake up! Wake up! Hear the voice that promised Paradise!

Shake me! Oh shake me awake my precious God!

Forsaken to awaken our sleeping souls, Christ became stricken. He was smitten to the point of death. Dying to love us, loving to lead us, he is calling us to follow him wherever he goes. Like Christ, let us thirst. Let our drink be his will. Wherever he leads, whatever he commands, whichever he chooses, let us take up our crosses and go. People, let us get ready to go!

Help us Lord. Finish us Lord. Into your hands we commit our spirits.

Indeed, make us ready. In the name of Jesus, make us ready... for anything.