



*Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know
when the time will come.*
MARK 13:33

ONIS / SHUTTERSTOCK

Hurry Up and Wait!

We've all had this experience. We rush to get ready...and then we wait: at the doctor's office, for a train, at a restaurant. For what do we hurry up and wait this Sunday? Some might say we are waiting for the birth of Jesus. But today's readings don't say this. The first reading describes people waiting for relief from the guilt of their sinfulness. Paul talks about waiting for "the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ" at the end time (1 Corinthians 1:7). The people in the Gospel are waiting for the return of the householder to settle accounts. There's no waiting for Christmas—yet.

For what should we wait if not Christmas? Isaiah tells us to hurry up and change our lives of pettiness, selfishness, and arrogance, and then to wait for the graciousness of God to "rend the heavens and come down" (Isaiah 63:19). Paul tells us to hurry up and

embrace "the grace of God bestowed on [us] in Christ Jesus" (1 Corinthians 1:4), and then to wait for the final revelation of his glory. The Gospel tells us to hurry up, be alert and ready for Christ's return, and then to wait for it to happen.

If we don't prepare ourselves for the coming of God in the reality of our own lives, we might not recognize this salvation when it comes. We're not waiting for an event that happened in the past; we are waiting for the grace of God that is calling us into the future. So, hurry up and wait!

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *If you are waiting for salvation, from what weakness or sin must you be saved?*
- ★ *How are you readying yourself for that salvation to take root in your life?*

