

thESource *Gospel Drama*

Sleeper, Awake

by Rev. Dean Nadasdy

On the Way to the Chancel

These little dramas are intended for use in the worship service either prior to or following the reading of the Sunday Gospel. Either way, through parable, fantasy or direct reference, they are a way to capture the obvious and the subtle themes in the Gospels for Advent through Epiphany.

The dramas require little rehearsal and few actors. Set furnishings and props are minimal. They are written to be presented primarily by young people for the worshiping congregation.

The "Focus" section introducing the dramas might be proclaimed before the drama is presented or simply printed in the worship folder.

If they enhance a celebration of the comedy of God that culminates in the birth of a baby boy in Bethlehem destined to save His people from their sins, they will have done what they were meant to do.

The Gospel for Advent 1 (Series B) Based on Mark 13:33-37

FOCUS:

Stay awake and watch for Christ. You can miss Good News in familiar places from familiar people.

SCENE:

A pastor's study. A desk, a desk chair and two easy chairs will create an office setting.

CHARACTERS:

Pastor - Best played by parish pastor on hand; concerned, patient; wears clerical collar for I.D.

Rip - A Van Winkel who is still asleep

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Pastor: Thanks for coming in, Rip. I've been wanting to talk to you for some time.

Rip: You don't want me for some church committee or something like that, do you, Reverend?

Pastor: No, I don't.

Rip: Then what can I do for you?

Pastor: It's about your sleeping, Rip.

Rip: What about my sleeping? The wife hasn't gone all the way to you about my snoring, has she?

Pastor: No, I'm talking about your sleeping in church.

Rip: You mean you noticed?

Pastor: It's kind of hard not to notice. I've been looking at the top of your head for the last six years.

Rip: *(embarrassed; in search of an alibi)* Well, how do you know I'm not praying?

Pastor: *(The alibi is obviously too flimsy.)* Rip.

Rip: People do pray in church. *(yawns)*

Pastor: And sleep, too.

Rip: And sleep, too. What happens to the sleepers? The ones who get caught, I mean. I bet they end up with some job around here like driving the Sunday School bus, don't they? Now that's penance. That's why you called me in here! Okay, give me the bus keys.

Pastor: Slow down, Rip. I called you in here because I want to know why you sleep in church.

Rip: *(yawns again)* I don't know. Something about church just makes me sleepy. I walk in, sit, and by the time the sermon starts, sack out. Dimming those overhead lights for the sermon doesn't help any either. *(yawns again)*

Pastor: Are you tired now, Rip?

Rip: Sort of.

Pastor: Would you like to lie down?

Rip: No, I wouldn't like to lie down!

Pastor: Do I make you sleepy?

Rip: I suppose you do. I haven't met a preacher yet who can keep me awake for more than 10 minutes. *(yawns again)* But about the church services. It's not your fault. It's just all too predictable, too predestined. *(yawns and gradually begins dozing)*

Pastor: But, Rip. The message! The love! The promise! The Christ! *(looks away as he speaks; caught up in what's becoming sermonic; meanwhile, Rip falls asleep)* Aren't you afraid you'll miss something or Someone?! Rip, think about it. Maybe the problem is with you and not with me or the service. Maybe what Julian said was right: we in the church are "people for whom the sun shone, and not a one knew it." Rip, I... *(notices him sleeping)* Rip! Rip? *(Both exit as the congregation sings the first stanza of "Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying" Lutheran Service Book 516; or the pastor can exit leaving Rip asleep during the singing of the hymn with Rip exiting as the hymn ends.)*

The End.

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