

DECEMBER 1, 2024
FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



The coming of Jesus gives us hope.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 21:25-36	The coming of the Son of Man
Monday	Jeremiah 33:14-16	The Lord's wonderful promise
Tuesday	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Paul's words of thanks
Wednesday	Luke 17:20-21	The coming of the kingdom
Thursday	Matthew 6:25-34	Do not worry
Friday	Colossians 1:9-14	The person and work of Christ
Saturday	Psalms 124:8-10	A prayer for guidance and help
Sunday	Luke 3:1-6	Prepare the way of the Lord

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near." Luke 21:31 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. In you I place my trust, O God, and wait for you all day long with hope in Christ. Amen. (Psalm 25:1-2, 5)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, bless us with hope as we prepare for your coming. We give thanks for this gift of food that strengthens us as we wait. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with hope.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something you hope for during the Advent season?
- When you are afraid, where do you turn for guidance and hope?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 21:25-36.

Whether it is a friend who betrays us or we see violence in the news, we can worry and feel fearful about the future. When life is going well and we seem not to have a care in the world, we can forget our need and desire for God's saving work in our lives and in the world. When bad things happen and we want to hide, that is the time to be alert, look up, and see the one we have been waiting for. We will not be disappointed for the kingdom of God is near and nothing can stop God's heroic work from taking place. That is the message of Jesus for people living in unsettling times, whether thousands of years ago or today. This message is important to hear anytime, especially at the beginning of Advent, the time of hope and waiting for Christ's coming into our world as Savior.

Discuss: Bad things do happen. How is God with you during those difficult times?

Pray: **Dear God, in times of fear and discomfort, help us to remember your saving work in our lives and wait with hope knowing that your kingdom is near through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help someone look to the future with hope?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The Advent Wreath is a Christian tradition. Make one for your home. Purchase a round wreath or Advent Wreath frame. Decorate it with greens, ribbons, or other materials. Place four candles on it. The circle represents God's infinite love. Light the first candle that symbolizes the theme of hope.

Say: **The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. (Jeremiah 33:14)**

Pray: **Lord, thank you for your promise to us which is filled with expectation and hope. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org