

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1–5

A reading from Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

PSALM: Psalm 122

Cantor sings refrain. Assembly repeats refrain. Cantor sings verses. Assembly sings refrain at R.



I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

¹I was glad when they ¹said to me,
"Let us go to the house ¹of the LORD."

²Now our ¹feet are standing
within your gates, ¹O Jerusalem.

³Jerusalem is built ¹as a city
that is at unity ¹with itself;

⁴to which the tribes go up, the tribes ^l of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name ^l of the LORD. **R**

⁵For there are the ^l thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the ^l house of David.

⁶Pray for the peace ^l of Jerusalem:
"May they prosper ^l who love you.

⁷Peace be with- ^l in your walls
and quietness with- ^l in your towers.

⁸For the sake of my kindred ^l and companions,
I pray for ^l your prosperity.

⁹Because of the house of the ^l LORD our God,
I will seek to ^l do you good." **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11–14

A reading from Romans.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36–44

³⁶But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:



These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Matthew 24:36-44	Stay alert, salvation is coming
Monday	Matthew 24:1-14	Don't be deceived
Tuesday	Matthew 24:23-35	The end is coming
Wednesday	Matthew 24:45-51	The faithful servant
Thursday	Luke 17:22-37	The coming of the Son of Man
Friday	Joel 3:14-21	The day of the Lord
Saturday	Psalms 124	We have escaped like a bird
Sunday	Matthew 3:1-12	Prepare the way of the Lord

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

Always be ready! You don't know when the Son of Man will come." *Matthew 24:44 (CEV)*

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, keep us awake in our faith, alert and ready to do what is right. Amen.

Advent Mealtime Prayer:

Bless our table, gracious God, and all who sit at it. As we wait for Jesus' return, give us the gift of sharing with others. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus be as near to you as your clothes. May he help you live in good ways and keep you awake in faith. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time you overslept. What happened?
- Jesus asks his followers to “keep watch” as he could return at any time (Matthew 24:42). What does it mean to “keep watch” for Jesus?

DEVOTIONS:

Set up an Advent wreath to use in your home. An Advent wreath contains 5 candles: 4 in a circle and 1 in the center. The circle represents the eternity of God, and the 4 candles are usually blue or purple. The center candle is usually white. It represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In the first week of Advent light the first candle and say these words:

Say: This is the first week of Advent. Advent means “coming”. We are waiting and preparing for the coming of Christ. Let us light the first Advent candle, the candle of waiting. *(The candle is lit).*

Read: *Read one of the following passages: Psalm 27:14; Psalm 33:20; Isaiah 51:5; Isaiah 64:4; Lamentations 3:25-26; Micah 7:7.*

Pray: Pray the prayer of the week or make up your own.

SERVICE:

Bake Christmas cookies together to give away to friends and neighbors.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Make a paper chain with a link for each day of December up to Christmas Day (suggestions below). Remove a link each day and do what it says:

- Share: “What gives you peace?”
- Share: “What gives you joy?”
- Share: “What gives you hope?”
- Compliment the people you see.
- Read Jeremiah 33:14-16.
- Share hugs with one another.
- Share good Christmas memories.
- Read Isaiah 11:1-3.
- Play a game together.
- Sing a Christmas carol.
- Share what you like about Christmas.
- Read Micah 5:2-4.
- Tell the nativity story.
- Make a special Christmas card for someone.
- Read Isaiah 7:14.
- Sing another Christmas carol.
- Do an act of service for another.
- Share a Christmas food.
- Read Isaiah 9:6-7.
- Go for a walk together.
- Draw a Christmas picture together.
- Read Luke 1:26-38.
- Read Matthew 1:18-24.
- Read Luke 2:1-7.