

NOVEMBER 28, 2021
FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

taking⁺ faith home

About in love for one another.

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	1 John 4:7-12	God is love
Thursday	Deuteronomy 10:12-22	The essence of the law
Friday	Romans 13:8-10	Love for one another
Saturday	Psalm 25:1-10	A prayer for help
Sunday	Luke 3:1-6	Prepare the way of the Lord

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.

1 Thessalonians 3:12 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, as we await your coming again, give us faith and good courage to resist evil and to be at peace with all people. In your name we pray, amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Give us strength through this meal that we may show gratitude for all you have created and love towards one another. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God make you increase and abound in love for one another. (1 Thessalonians 3:12)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

The King Shall Come



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:

- Think of something that has been challenging for you. What makes it a challenge?
- Advent begins with a focus on Christ's second coming. Why is this important?

DEVOTIONS



Read: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13.

1 Thessalonians is likely the oldest New Testament writing we have. It ends with Paul addressing the church's concern about Christ's second coming (see 4:13-5:11), very fitting for the first week of Advent. Living in Thessalonica was a challenge. It was a Roman capital, filled with Roman powers and a religious setting very different from the Christian faith. It led to the persecution and suffering of Christians living there. Paul connects their lives of holiness and innocence to the power of Christ's return. All of this encourages a life "set apart"—that's what holiness means. Living with those who wish you harm and with other gods to worship, is truly a challenge, one that needs the power of Christ and his return to sustain us daily.

Discuss: What are the challenges you face as a person of the Christian faith?

Pray: Come, Lord Jesus, give us faith as we await your coming, that we may love all people as you love us now and always. Amen.

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, is there something you can do to show God's abounding love to others?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



This is the First Sunday in Advent. Make or purchase a round Advent wreath to represent God's unending love. Place three blue (or purple) candles and one pink candle on it. Place a white one in the center. Decorate with greens to symbolize eternal life. Light one blue/purple candle.

Say: We light the first candle, the Prophet's candle, reminding us of the prophets who waited for the coming of Jesus. Come, Lord Jesus, come, and fulfill the promise.

Pray: Dear God, give us faith to trust your word, love to care for others, and hope in your promise to return and make all things new through Christ our Lord. Amen.