

NOVEMBER 9, 2014  
22ND SUNDAY OF  
PENTECOST

Always be ready for  
Jesus' return.

### 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 passages.

Sunday	Matthew 25:1-13	Parable of the wise and foolish girls
Monday	Matthew 24:36-44	Keep watch
Tuesday	Deuteronomy 4:5-20	Watch yourselves carefully
Wednesday	Micah 7:1-7	Watching in hope for the Lord
Thursday	Luke 21:29-36	Be always on the watch
Friday	2 John 1-11	Watch out!
Saturday	Psalms 59	Looking to the Lord
Sunday	Matthew 25:14-30	Parable of the talents

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"So always be ready, because you don't know the day or the hour the  
Son of Man will come." Matthew 25:13 (NCV)

#### SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

##### A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, we are waiting for you to come again. Take us to be with you  
forever. Amen. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

##### Mealtime Prayer:

For this meal and all God's gifts, let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God!

##### A Blessing to Give:

May God watch over you and keep your faith strong until Jesus comes  
again. Amen.

taking+  
faith  
home

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### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- How does it feel to be running late for an appointment or an event?  
Share about an experience you have had with being late.
- Jesus told a parable about some women who missed out on a wedding  
banquet (Matthew 25:1-13). What happened to them?
- Jesus says that we don't know when he will return, so we need to be  
ready for him. What do you think it means to be ready?

### DEVOTIONS

Draw or print a picture of an oil lamp. Read the Parable of the Wise and  
Foolish Girls and talk about what is involved in keeping our "spiritual lamps"  
burning until Jesus returns. Write your ideas on the picture and display it in  
your home. If you have an actual oil lamp, set this up too. As a related craft  
project, make paper lanterns. See this website for simple instructions:  
[www.instructables.com/id/How-to-make-a-paper-lantern-in-6-easy-steps/](http://www.instructables.com/id/How-to-make-a-paper-lantern-in-6-easy-steps/).

### SERVICE

November 9th is this year's International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted  
Church. Look together at the website, [www.opendoors.org](http://www.opendoors.org), to learn more  
about the persecution faced by Christians in countries all over the world.  
Organize a monetary donation or fundraiser in support of the ministry of  
Open Doors. Choose to pray for Christians in a particular country throughout  
this week.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

November 11th is Veterans Day, a day to remember and honor all military  
personnel who lost their lives in service of your country. Plan to visit a local  
war memorial on this day. Bring flowers to leave as a symbol of thanks and  
respect. Say a prayer of thanks to God for the freedom your country enjoys  
and for those who died in defense of its ideals.



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