

NOVEMBER 30, 2014
FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

taking⁺ faith home

One day the whole world will see
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	Mark 13:24-37	The day and hour unknown
Monday	Daniel 12:1-3	Hope for the end times
Tuesday	Zechariah 14:1-9	God will come to rule
Wednesday	Matthew 24:29-31	Be ready for that day
Thursday	Luke 21:25-36	Be alert for that day
Friday	Revelation 14:13	Stay faithful to Jesus
Saturday	Psalms 110	The Lord's rule
Sunday	Mark 1:1-8	John the Baptist prepares the way

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory." Mark 13:26 (NIV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, thank you for your words of grace and peace, which never pass away. Amen. (Mark 1:31; 1 Corinthians 1:8)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, thank you for giving us hope for the heart and food for the plate. For Jesus our Savior we watch and we wait. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God keep you strong in your faith until Jesus comes again.
Amen. (1 Corinthians 1:8)

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you were waiting for something or someone.
- Jesus said that one day he would return to our world with great power and glory. Is Jesus' return something you look forward to? Why?
- Jesus said, "My words will never pass away." (Mark 13:31) What words of Jesus are especially important to you?

DEVOTIONS

November 30 is the first Sunday in Advent. Using four blue or purple candles and a white center candle, set up a home Advent wreath. In your household devotion times this week, light the first candle and use the following words:

*The first candle on our Advent wreath is the **PROPHECY CANDLE**. Long ago, God promised to send a Savior. He used prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah and Micah to give people hope for the future. (Light the first candle.)*

Have a household member read Isaiah 9:6. Then say this prayer together, repeating after the leader:

Lord God, thank you for keeping the promises you made through the prophets and sending us a Savior. Fill us with hope as we get ready to celebrate Jesus' birth. Amen.

SERVICE

At Christmas time, we remember that God gave himself in Christ to the world to save us. In response, we are called to give to those less fortunate. This week, start purchasing non-perishable grocery items to donate to a local food pantry or charity serving needy persons or families. Set aside a special box for these items and add to it each week of Advent. When it is full, wrap up your gift, attach a Christmas card and make your donation. Pray for those people it will assist.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

With the beginning of the new church year in Advent, the church hears a new set of readings from the Bible (the main Gospel used this year will be Mark). Gather together all the Bibles in your home and use this prayer of blessing: *Heavenly Father, we thank for you for the Bible, and especially for the good news about Jesus our Savior. As we read, listen to and think about what the Bible says to us in this new church year, make us into people who are strong in our faith and full of love. Amen.*



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



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Written by Pr. Greg Priebbenow.