

DECEMBER 5, 2021
SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



Prepare the way of Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	Luke 3:1-6	Prepare the way of the Lord
Monday	Malachi 3:1-4	The promised messenger
Tuesday	Philippians 1:3-11	Peace to God's people
Wednesday	Psalms 126	Harvest of joy
Thursday	Proverbs 24:13-14	Seek wisdom
Friday	Isaiah 40:1-11	A voice in the desert
Saturday	Luke 1:68-79	Zechariah's prophecy
Sunday	Luke 3:7-18	One more powerful is coming

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

[A]s it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" Luke 3:4 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, may we join with John the Baptist to prepare your way into the world that all may know hope, the forgiveness of sins, and the salvation you bring. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we give you thanks for this meal and your tender mercies that bless us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus bless you with hope for each new day.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Come, Thou
Long-Expected Jesus*



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:

- When you are expecting company in your home, how do you prepare for their visit?
- How does preparing for the coming of Christ reflect your hope for the future?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 3:1-6.

Baptism by John the Baptist was not the same as that of Jesus. Jesus' baptism brings the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:16). It is our Christian baptism that gives birth to a life of faith and salvation. John's baptism does reveal something about our life in Christ through baptism: daily renewal through repentance and the forgiveness of sins. Christian baptism begins a way of life of daily renewal in grace, free to confess shortcomings and free to receive forgiveness, new life, and new opportunities to love one's neighbor. John prepares the way of Jesus into the world, and so do we with our daily return to our baptism. Our faith, born by the Spirit, gives hope not only to us, but to the whole world because in our relationships with others, we speak of repentance, forgiveness, and salvation for all.

Discuss: How do you share this faith with others?

Pray: **Come, Lord Jesus, renew us in faith each day that we may prepare for your coming into our lives so that all may live in hope through the power of forgiveness. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, how can you share the hope of Jesus' coming through your actions or words?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This is the Second Sunday of Advent. Light two blue/purple candles on the Advent wreath.

Say: **We light the first candle, the Prophet's candle, and the second candle, the Bethlehem candle, naming where Jesus will be born. May we prepare for the coming of Christ into our lives and our world with confidence and with hope for all the world.**

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.**



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