

Daily Advent Readings

Advent is a time of preparation. We are getting ready to welcome Christ into our world. During the week, let's spend time reflecting on the story of salvation revealed in the Scriptures and prepare our hearts to receive our newborn King.

This Week's Theme: Hope

MONDAY 11.30.20 Psalm 130:1-8

In Psalm 130, the psalmist said he was crying "out of the depths." Yet even in a time like that, he wrote, "I wait for the Lord, my soul waits and in his word I hope" (v. 5). This resilient, persistent hope is one of God's promises for Christmas. It's the reason we light the candle of hope on the first Sunday of Advent.

TUESDAY 12.01.20 Isaiah 40:1-5, 27-31

Isaiah 40 offered hope to the Israelites returning from exile in Babylon. Isaiah spoke words of comfort and divine promise because God had never abandoned them. Even in the days that felt the most painful and desolate, they always had hope. God is in the business of "giving power to the tired and reviving the exhausted." That's a promise we need as much as the Israelites did.

WEDNESDAY 12.02.20 Isaiah 9:1-7

"A child is born to us," said Isaiah's prophecy, "a son is given to us." His words of hope rang through the years that maybe life's darkness wasn't permanent. In the hope of that amazing, unique birth, the promise that people walking in darkness would see "a great light" is our source of comfort in a turbulent world.

THURSDAY 12.03.20 Luke 2:25-32

Simeon was "led by the Spirit" to the Temple area. The text implies that the Spirit must have also led him to Mary, Joseph and their infant son rather than to any other parents who brought infants to the Temple that day. Luke said, "The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he wouldn't die before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (The Messiah). For Simeon, this was truly the promise of hope fulfilled.

FRIDAY 12.04.20 Isaiah 60:1-3

This beautiful poem was probably first addressed to Israelites returning from exile in Babylon. The Jerusalem to which they returned had been sacked and burned—it was not, as they arrived, glorious. But God called the returning Israelites to be a light to others. God's hope wasn't just a show to watch passively. When the light shined on God's people, they were called to "Arise! Shine!" and bring hope to the world.

SATURDAY 12.05.20 John 1:1-5

Boldly and creatively, the prologue to John's gospel brought together the worlds of Greek and Hebrew thought. Greek thinkers saw "the Word" (Greek logos) as the force that directed the universe. Writers like Philo often personified "the logos" as the world's guiding force. In Hebrew thought, Genesis 1 said God created by speaking (cf. Psalm 33:6), and Proverbs 8:12, 22-31 said "Wisdom" was with God at creation. Yes, said John—coming to us out of the mysterious mists of eternity, the Word (Jesus—cf. John 1:14) embodied all that power, wisdom and light.