

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 2, 2018



THE LESSON Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The time is coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill my gracious promise with the people of Israel and Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time, I will raise up a righteous

branch from David's line, who will do what is just and right in the land. ¹⁶In those days, Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is what he will be called: The LORD Is Our Righteousness.

THE RESPONSE Psalm 25:1-10

I offer my life to you, LORD.

¹My God, I trust you. Please don't let me be put to shame! Don't let my enemies rejoice over me!

²For that matter, don't let anyone who hopes in you be put to shame; instead, let those who are treacherous without excuse be put to shame.

³Make your ways known to me, LORD; teach me your paths.

⁴Lead me in your truth—teach it to me—because you are the God who saves me. I put my hope in you all day long.

⁵LORD, remember your compassion and faithful love—they are forever!

⁶But don't remember the sins of my youth or my wrongdoing. Remember me only according to your faithful love for the sake of your goodness, LORD.

⁷The LORD is good and does the right thing; he teaches sinners which way they should go.

⁸God guides the weak to justice, teaching them his way.

⁹All the LORD's paths are loving and faithful for those who keep his covenant and laws.

THE EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you, given all the joy we have because of you before our God? ¹⁰Night and day, we pray more than ever to see all of you in person and

to complete whatever you still need for your faith. ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus guide us on our way back to you. ¹²May the Lord cause you to increase and enrich your love for each other and for everyone in the

same way as we also love you. ¹³May the love cause your hearts to be strengthened, to be blameless in

holiness before our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his people. Amen.

THE GOSPEL Luke 21:25-36

²⁵There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. On the earth, there will be dismay among nations in their confusion over the roaring of the sea and surging waves. ²⁶The planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken, causing people to faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world. ²⁷Then they will see the Human One coming on a cloud with power and great splendor. ²⁸Now when these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your redemption is near.

²⁹Jesus told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. ³⁰When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that

summer is near. ³¹In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that God's kingdom is near. ³²I assure you that this generation won't pass away until everything has happened. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away.

³⁴Take care that your hearts aren't dulled by drinking parties, drunkenness, and the anxieties of day-to-day life. Don't let that day fall upon you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. It will come upon everyone who lives on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Stay alert at all times, praying that you are strong enough to escape everything that is about to happen and to stand before the Human One."

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Light IN THE DARKNESS

ADVENT WEEK ONE: DARKNESS AND LIGHT

Melody Consolation CM
(The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns)

P "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth ... and God separated the light from the darkness." We light the first candle on the Advent wreath as we remember the Word of God that created light in the darkness.

(One candle is lit.)

God sent the Light into the world,
His promise to fulfill.
The Light cannot be overcome;
It shines in darkness still.

P With repentant hearts, we prepare to welcome Jesus, the Light of the world.

God separated the Light from the DARKNESS.

GENESIS 1:1-5

G Almighty God, forgive us and fill us with the light of your love.

P "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth ...

G And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light." (Genesis 1:1, 5)

P "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God ...

G In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

P The light shines in the darkness,

G And the darkness has not overcome it."
(John 1:1-2, 4-5)

P Jesus, the Light of the world, calls us to shine as lights in the world.

G We reflect his love so that others will be drawn to his light.

As God sent his creating Word
To summon day from night,
He sent his Son, the Word made flesh,
To shine as this world's Light.

Daily Bible Readings for the First Week of Advent

Sunday Genesis 1:1-4
Monday John 1:1-5
Tuesday Hebrews 11:1-3
Wednesday Psalm 19:1-6
Thursday Psalm 119:105-112
Friday Psalm 104:1-9
Saturday Isaiah 55:10-13

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