

DECEMBER 8, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



Advent brings peace to God's people.

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	Luke 1:68-79	Zechariah praises the Lord
Wednesday	Mark 1:1-8	The preaching of John the Baptist
Thursday	Philippians 1:3-11	Peace to God's people
Friday	Isaiah 40:1-11	A voice in the desert
Saturday	Psalms 126	Harvest of joy
Sunday	Luke 3:7-18	One more powerful is coming

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

[John the Baptist] went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as 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 3:3-4 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to prepare for your coming into our lives and world so that we may know your peace through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord, bless this meal and our home this Advent with peace as we prepare for your coming. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God guide you into the way of peace. (Luke 1:79)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Prepare the Royal
Highway*



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:

- To repent means "to turn around." When is a time you were headed in the wrong direction and had to turn around?
- God does not come to us and leave us unchanged. How does God's love shown in Jesus change you?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 1:67-79.

This is a New Testament psalm known as the song of Zechariah. It is a very important song that has been used in the *Matins* (morning prayer) service over the centuries in the church. Zechariah is prophesying, meaning he is giving us a Spirit-filled message for our lives today. Zechariah prepares us for the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation that is about to happen. The psalm is a beautiful testimony to "the tender mercy of our God" (v. 78) that will bring joy to the world. The promise of a messenger to prepare the way of the Lord (Malachi 3:1-4) is being fulfilled with the birth of Zechariah's and Elizabeth's son, John the Baptist. Reread Luke 1:67-79 and pause to feel the joy and gladness of Zechariah's song with the message that will "guide our feet into the way of peace" (v. 79b).

Discuss: How does reading Zechariah's song bring you peace and joy?

Pray: **Merciful God, you have prepared us for a joy we cannot fully imagine. Bless us now and always with the light of Christ to guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how might you help someone experience the peace of God's presence?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The second candle on the Advent Wreath symbolizes the theme of peace. Discuss or think about how preparing the way of the Lord can bring peace. Light the first candle of hope and the second candle of peace on the Advent Wreath.

Say: Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways.

(Luke 1: 67, 76)

Pray: Lord God, as we prepare for the coming of our Savior and Lord, guide our feet into the way of peace. Amen.



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