

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth (*other places of conflict may be named*). God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## Preparing for Next Week

**Monday** Psalm 124. **Tuesday** Genesis 9:1-17. **Wednesday** (Andrew, Apostle) John 1:35-42. **Thursday** Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19. **Friday** Isaiah 30:19-26. **Saturday** (commemoration of Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552) Isaiah 40:1-11. **Second Sunday of Advent** (commemoration of John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749) Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12.

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God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care (*especially*). God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict (*especially*). Give wisdom to congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of promise, your goodness is everlasting. We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**



# Celebrate

First Sunday of Advent  
November 27, 2022

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

## Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>In days to come  
the mountain of the LORD's  
house  
shall be established as the highest  
of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the  
hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come  
and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the  
mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his  
paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth  
instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from  
Jerusalem.  
<sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the  
nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many  
peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into  
plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning  
hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword  
against nation,  
neither shall they learn war  
any more.

<sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

I was glad when they <sup>1</sup> said to me,  
 “Let us go to the house <sup>1</sup> of the LORD.”  
<sup>2</sup>Now our <sup>1</sup> feet are standing  
 within your gates, <sup>1</sup> O Jerusalem.  
<sup>3</sup>Jerusalem is built <sup>1</sup> as a city  
 that is at unity <sup>1</sup> with itself;  
<sup>4</sup>to which the tribes go up, the tribes <sup>1</sup> of the LORD,  
 the assembly of Israel, to praise the name <sup>1</sup> of the LORD. **R**  
<sup>5</sup>For there are the <sup>1</sup> thrones of judgment,  
 the thrones of the <sup>1</sup> house of David.  
<sup>6</sup>Pray for the peace <sup>1</sup> of Jerusalem:  
 “May they pros- <sup>1</sup> per who love you.  
<sup>7</sup>Peace be with- <sup>1</sup> in your walls  
 and quietness with- <sup>1</sup> in your towers.  
<sup>8</sup>For the sake of my kindred <sup>1</sup> and companions,  
 I pray for <sup>1</sup> your prosperity.  
<sup>9</sup>Because of the house of the <sup>1</sup> LORD our God,  
 I will seek to <sup>1</sup> do you good.” **R**

*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.*

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live

honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Gospel

*Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.*

[Jesus said to the disciples,] “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the

field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”