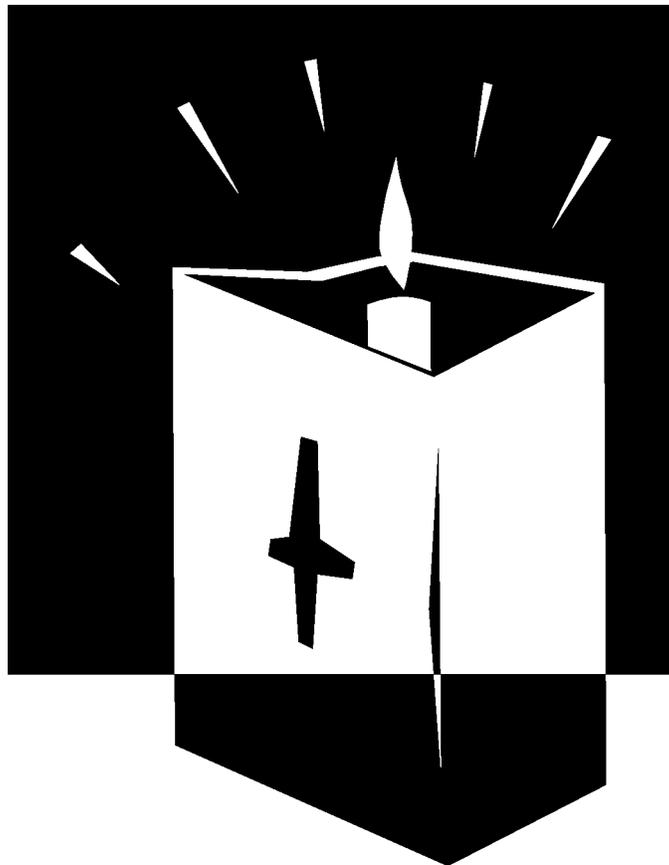


# Watch, Wait, Wonder, and Worship: A Midweek Series for Advent



## Opening

### Week 2

The voice of one crying in the wilderness says:

**“Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight.”**

### DIALOGUE AND DOXOLOGY

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, O God,  
**that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.**

**Praise to the blest and holy Trinity, one God,  
who gives us life, salvation, and resurrection.**

**Alleluia.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

**Oh, come, let us worship and praise.**

## **Psalm**

### **Week 2 – Psalm 37:3-8, 16-19, 28-29**

- <sup>3</sup>Trust in the LORD, and do good;  
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
- <sup>4</sup>Take delight in the LORD,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- <sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the LORD;  
trust in him, and he will act.
- <sup>6</sup>He will make your vindication shine like the light,  
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
- <sup>7</sup>Be still before the LORD, and wait patiently for him;  
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,  
over those who carry out evil devices.
- <sup>8</sup>Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.  
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
- <sup>16</sup>Better is a little that the righteous person has  
than the abundance of many wicked.
- <sup>17</sup>For the arms of the wicked shall be broken,  
but the LORD upholds the righteous.
- <sup>18</sup>The LORD knows the days of the blameless,  
and their heritage will abide forever;
- <sup>19</sup>they are not put to shame in evil times,  
in the days of famine they have abundance.
- <sup>28</sup>For the LORD loves justice;  
he will not forsake his faithful ones.  
The righteous shall be kept safe forever,  
but the children of the wicked shall be cut off.
- <sup>29</sup>The righteous shall inherit the land,  
and live in it forever.

## **Scripture**

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,  
**but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.**

## **GOSPEL CANTICLE**

**In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us.  
Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and set them free.  
You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your servant David.  
In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us.**

**Through your holy prophets,  
you promised of old to save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all who hate us,  
to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember your holy covenant.**

**This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
free to worship you without fear,  
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

**In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us.**

**And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,  
to give God's people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

**In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us**

## **Week 2 – 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

<sup>8</sup> But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you,<sup>[b]</sup> not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup> waiting for and hastening<sup>[d]</sup> the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup> But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15</sup> and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

## **Reflection**

### **Week 2**

What word, image, or phrase stands out for you in this reading?

What in your life requires patience?

What are you waiting for?

How might you prepare the way of Christ's coming?

## Prayer Week 2

Stir up our hearts, O Lord,  
to prepare the way for the coming of your Son.  
Give us courage and faith to proclaim, in word and deed,  
the good news of your coming,  
even as we wait in patience  
for that day when Christ will come again.

**Amen.**

## Prayers

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence for prayer follows each petition.*

Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new.

Especially we thank you—

for the sustaining goodness of your creation . . .

for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness . . .

for the gifts of relationship with others . . .

for the communion of faith in your church . . .

*Other thanksgivings may be added.*

Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord.

Especially we pray—

for those who govern nations of the world . . .

for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare . . .

for all who work for peace and international harmony . . .

for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction . . .

for the church of Jesus Christ in every land . . .

*Other thanksgivings may be added.*

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Guide us waking, O Lord,  
and guard us sleeping;  
that awake we may watch with Christ  
and asleep we may rest in peace. **Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

## **Blessing**

Even as we wait, watch, wonder and worship, **God is with us.**

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