

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



## Peace and Tranquility

God our Father and giver of peace,  
you turn the forces of death  
into healing,  
as you fulfill your promises  
throughout time.  
Encourage us to be alert for  
your presence  
and to hope when we are discouraged.  
Turn our swords, our wrongdoing,  
into instruments of peace  
so that one day we will rejoice  
as we walk to the house of the Lord.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Sunday, November 30, 2025**  
**A Pilgrimage toward God**



*Today's readings: Isaiah 2:1–5; Psalm 122:1–9; Romans 13:11–14; Matthew 24:37–44.* In the time of Isaiah's prophecy, the mountaintops were considered the gods' dwelling. Is it any wonder that peace, well-being, and complete joy were to be found, according to Isaiah in the first reading, on the "mountaintop" of the new Jerusalem? As Christians, we are called to new life, to new ways of being. We are to discard enmity and act peacefully as we walk in the light to the house of the Lord.

St. Paul discerns between the darkness of the current time and the light that awaits us on "the day at hand." He calls the Romans to be ready for the Lord, to reform their lives "to put on the Lord Jesus Christ." The call is for

us also so that we will "awake from sleep" and "put on the armor of light."

Advent begins with a vivid reminder to be ready at all times to meet God. "Therefore, stay awake," Jesus tells the disciples in Matthew's Gospel account. Each day we must listen carefully to the message of Scripture. Our destination is the heavenly mountaintop, and our hope is for peace and justice for all.

As the Advent wreath is blessed and lighted on this Sunday that begins the liturgical year, keep within you the image of the burning flame. Allow the candle to reflect God's presence within each pilgrim that you encounter on your Advent journey.