

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS:** 

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Mark 1:1-8	John the Baptist prepares the way
Monday	Isaiah 26:4-9	The way of the righteous
Tuesday	Malachi 3:1-4	God promises a messenger
Wednesday	Luke 1:5-17	God's messenger in the temple
Thursday	Psalms 90:1-12	God and time
Friday	1 Timothy 1:12-17	The unlimited patience of Christ
Saturday	Psalms 27:7-14	Lead me in a straight path
Sunday	John 1:6-8,19-28	John's witness to the Light

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:**

Always trust the LORD, because he is forever our mighty rock. **Isaiah 26:4 (CEV)**

**SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord God, make us ready to be your messengers, preparing the way for you to come to others. Amen. (Mark 1:2-3)

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Come, Lord Jesus, come. Come to our table. Come into our hearts. Come and give us your peace. Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May God be good to you. May God forgive your sins and give you peace. Amen.

**CARING CONVERSATION:**

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What things do you do in your home to prepare for Christmas?
- How can we get ready for Christmas, not just outwardly, but also in our hearts?
- God used John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus. How does God use us to prepare the way for others to hear about him?

**DEVOTIONS:**

If you have not already done so, set up a home Advent wreath using blue or purple candles. In your household devotion times this week, light two candles, and use the following liturgy:

Leader: "In the second week of Advent we light two candles – the candles of hope and of peace. We are getting ready to celebrate the birthday of Jesus, the Prince of Peace."

On each day of the week have a different family member read a Bible passage about peace: Psalm 34:14, Proverbs 17:1, Isaiah 26:3, Luke 2:14, John 14:27, Romans 5:1, Philippians 4:6-7. Talk about the verse/s. Then, form a circle by joining hands around the candles and conclude with these words:

Leader: "Our household is a circle that is held together by the peace of God."

Response: "Come, Lord Jesus, and give us peace. Amen."

**SERVICE:**

We can "prepare the way for the Lord" through acts of service in Christ's name. Make preparations to donate a gift or food basket to a person or family in your community. You may wish to contact a local charity to see what is most needed. This is a great project to do with other households in your church.

**RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:**

As a household, decorate and number enough envelopes for each day left before Christmas. String them on a ribbon or cord and hang it up, perhaps with a sprig of green and a red Christmas bow at each end. Place a Christmas symbol, Bible verse or a small treasure (e.g. an ornament or piece of candy) in each envelope and seal it shut. Take turns opening a package each day. The anticipation will grow as the line of packages decreases and Christmas approaches.



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