

First Sunday of Advent

Light the first purple candle

Behold, the Lord will come, and all of his holy ones with him;
and on that day there will be a great light!

Read:

Jesus said to his disciples:

so will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man,

two men will be out in the field;

one will be taken, and one will be left.

Two women will be grinding at the mill;

one will be taken and the other left.

Therefore, stay awake!

For you do not know which day your Lord will come.

- Matthew 24:39b-42

Say: Today marks a new beginning and an urgent call to a powerful mission. The signs of this holy season invite us to live vigilantly, set apart from what we may be experiencing in the world around us. We light the first of four candles, offering a tiny flicker of light that will burn ever more brightly throughout Advent. Songs of anticipation evoke the hope that we feel. The color purple reminds us to live with penitent hearts, readying ourselves for a moment that will come unexpectedly. Right now we live in between two advents. Christ has already come in flesh and bones to give his life on the Cross. He rose victorious over sin forevermore. Now we wait for Him to come again! Jesus will return according to God's design, not by our plans. Jesus reminds us to be ready for Him. With no certain itinerary but a clear destination, we move ahead with expectant hope, confident that God is with us every step of the way. May the longing of our hearts cry: Come, Lord Jesus!

Throughout this week in silence, journaling or conversation, meditate on these questions:

Where have I met Christ today? Where will I watch for Christ tomorrow?

Pray: Dear Loving God, thank you for the gifts, blessings and joys of this season. Accompany and strengthen us so that we may actively live out your love among our neighbors. Amen