

DAILY DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER

For Individuals and Families

This order of prayer may be used as a guide for daily devotion time and prayer for individuals and families.

In group settings, one person may read the words in regular type and the others may respond with the words in bold type. Prayers that are in bold type are to be prayed by all.

The sign of the cross † may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Listen to my prayer, O God, do not ignore my plea;

hear me and answer me.

Evening, morning, and noon

I cry out in distress, and He hears my voice.

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you;

He will never let the righteous fall.

Psalm 55:1–2a, 17, 22 NIV

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

A hymn or psalm may be sung or spoken.

A reading from the weekly lectionary is read.

The Apostles' Creed is confessed.

(The Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Luther's Morning and Evening Prayers, and other prayers may be found in the back of this book.)

Lord's Prayer

Prayers for others and ourselves

Concluding prayers:

Heavenly Father, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts to direct and rule us according to Your will, to comfort us in all our afflictions, to defend us from all error, and to lead us into all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

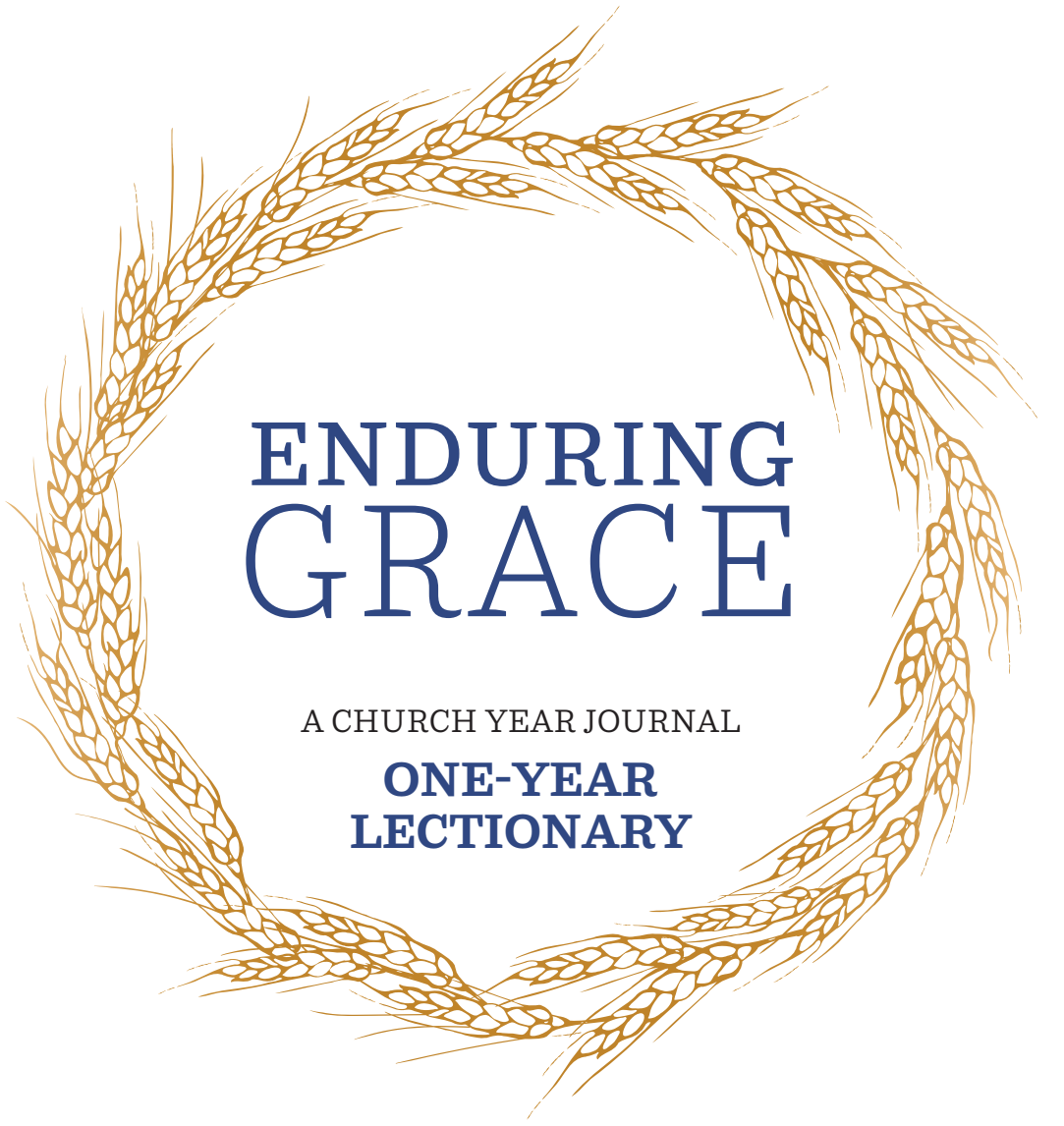
Amen.

Luther's Morning or Evening Prayer

Let us bless the Lord.

Psalm 103:1

Thanks be to God.



ENDURING GRACE

A CHURCH YEAR JOURNAL

**ONE-YEAR
LECTIONARY**



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HOW TO USE THIS JOURNAL

Dear reader, God's Word is a precious gift, given to us by God Himself "so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31). In the Divine Service, we receive God's good gifts through the Word and Sacraments: the strengthening of faith, the forgiveness of our sins, and life everlasting. Through these gifts, the Holy Spirit equips us to live out each week in love and service to Him and to others. The Spirit continues to work in our hearts and lives throughout the week as we spend time in the Word and daily prayer. *Enduring Grace: A Church Year Journal* was created to help you engage more deeply with the weekly lectionary readings through reflection and prayer.

This journal contains the Scripture readings for every Sunday of the One-Year Lectionary. You may choose to prepare for the upcoming Sunday by engaging with the readings during the week leading up to each Sunday or review the lessons in the week following to continue reflecting on the Scripture passages you heard in worship. Consider identifying a particular time in your weekly schedule to dedicate to Scripture reading, journaling, and prayer. This will help you form a consistent habit of being in the Word throughout the week.

The following features have been included to enhance and guide your devotional time:

- Order of Prayer
- Suggestions for prayers for a variety of occasions
- Old Testament, Epistle, Gospel, and Psalm readings for each Sunday
- Space for journaling, making notes, and recording prayers
- The Collect and a suggested theme of the readings for each Sunday
- An introduction to each season of the Church Year
- Descriptions of fourteen festivals of the Church Year
- A hymn and reflection on the hymn for each season and festival
- Introduction to the Church Year and the One-Year Lectionary

GETTING STARTED

Each Church Year calendar cycle begins with the First Sunday in Advent. If you are beginning this book in Advent, you can simply turn to the first pages. If you are beginning at another time of the year, you can find the correct page by noting which Sunday of the Church Year you last observed at church, by asking your pastor, or by consulting a calendar for the One-Year LCMS Lectionary. Note that not all the Sunday readings contained in this journal will be celebrated in a given year. Because the principal celebration of Easter is a movable date, the date of Easter determines much of the Church Year. Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls in the seventh week before Easter. The Ascension of Our Lord occurs on a Thursday, forty days after Easter Day. The Day of Pentecost is seven weeks, or the fiftieth day, after Easter. An early celebration of Easter will allow for more Sundays after Pentecost. A later Easter means there will be more Sundays after Epiphany.

INTRODUCTION TO THE CHURCH YEAR AND THE ONE-YEAR LECTIONARY

WHAT IS THE CHURCH YEAR?

At its heart, the Church Year tells a story—the true story of the life and work of Jesus Christ. It takes us on a journey through His birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension. The life of the church is centered around the life of Christ. As we celebrate each part of His life, we are reminded of God’s great love for us in Jesus, our Savior.

Celebrating faith events around a calendar isn’t new. In Old Testament times, God commanded the Israelites to celebrate the Passover and other festivals each year as a remembrance and celebration of His gifts, promises, and blessings. Early Christians adapted some of the Jewish festivals, recalling historic events that were important to their faith. Christians also added their own unique celebrations, which revolved around events in the life of Jesus.

Many Christian church bodies today continue to follow the Christian calendar for several reasons:

- The Church Year helps us remember God’s great acts of salvation, the historic events that are important to our faith.
- We use the times, seasons, and celebration days of the Church Year as teaching moments to tell and retell the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ.
- The Church Year reminds us that this life is not all there is; we eagerly anticipate the day when Christ will come again and establish the new heavens and the new earth.

WHAT IS A LECTIONARY?

A lectionary is a collection of Scripture readings, or lections, for the Church Year. Early Christians kept the Jewish practice of reading portions of the Pentateuch and the Prophets, adding readings from the Gospel and the Epistles as time went on. Through the years, various patterns of reading Scripture were established in different places. As the Church Year seasons and festivals developed, the patterns shifted from sequential readings of Scripture to readings that aligned more closely with the Church Year.

The readings in this lectionary journal are part of a one-year lectionary that has roots in historic lectionaries, including those used at the time of the Reformation. The yearly repetition of key passages from Scripture lays a solid foundation for catechesis. Additionally, the One-Year LCMS Lectionary has value in its historic connections to Luther’s sermons on the Gospel and Epistle readings and Lutheran hymnody written to accompany and support the historic Western lectionary.

Historically, lectionaries were beautifully decorated books. The artistry of these books conveyed the incomparable richness of the words of God contained therein. As you read, journal, and pray over the biblical texts in this lectionary, may the Spirit strengthen your faith through our God’s precious, saving Word.

SUNDAYS AND SEASONS OF THE CHURCH YEAR

THE TIME OF CHRISTMAS

Advent Season

First Sunday in Advent **B/V**

Second Sunday in Advent **B/V**

Third Sunday in Advent **B/V**

Fourth Sunday in Advent **B/V**

Christmas Season

The Nativity of Our Lord **W**

First Sunday after Christmas **W**

Second Sunday after Christmas **W**

Epiphany Season

The Epiphany of Our Lord **W**

The Baptism of Our Lord **W**

Second Sunday after the Epiphany **G**

Third Sunday after the Epiphany **G**

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany **G**

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany **G**

The Transfiguration of Our Lord **W**

THE TIME OF EASTER

Pre-Lent Season

Septuagesima **G**

Sexagesima **G**

Quinquagesima **G**

Lenten Season

Ash Wednesday **BK/V**

First Sunday in Lent **V**

Second Sunday in Lent **V**

Third Sunday in Lent **V**

Fourth Sunday in Lent **V**

Fifth Sunday in Lent **V**

Holy Week

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion **S/V**

Holy Thursday **W/S/V**

Good Friday **BK**

Easter Season

The Resurrection of Our Lord **W/GO**

Second Sunday of Easter **W**

Third Sunday of Easter **W**

Fourth Sunday of Easter **W**

Fifth Sunday of Easter **W**

Sixth Sunday of Easter **W**

The Ascension of Our Lord **W**

Seventh Sunday of Easter **W**

Pentecost **R**

THE TIME OF THE CHURCH

The Season after Pentecost

The Holy Trinity **W**

First through Twenty-Sixth Sundays
after Pentecost **G**

Last Sunday of the Church Year **G**

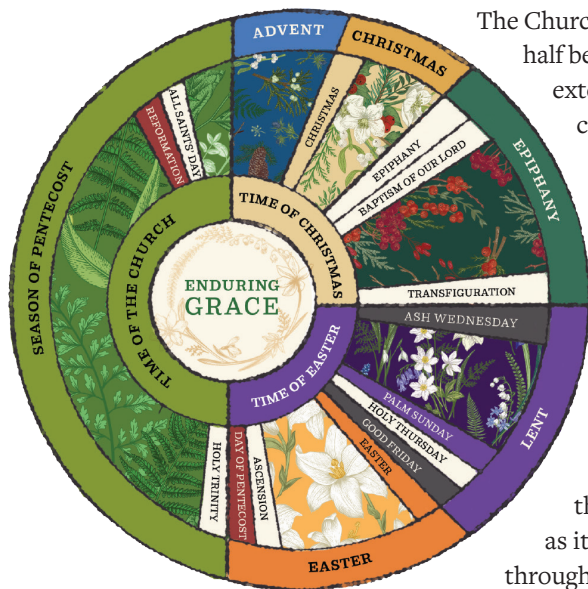
Reformation Day **R**

All Saints' Day **W**

The letters indicate the suggested colors:

B = blue, BK = black, G = green, GO = gold, R = red, S = scarlet,
V = violet, W = white

THE CHURCH YEAR CALENDAR



The Church Year calendar has two halves. The first half begins with the First Sunday in Advent and extends through the Day of Pentecost. We call this the “festival” half, since during this time we celebrate the festivals that commemorate important events in the life of Christ. Throughout this half of the year, we are reminded of what God the Father has done and continues to do for us through His Son. The “nonfestival” half of the year begins on Trinity Sunday and continues through the Last Sunday of the Church Year. The second half of the year focuses on the life of the church as it is strengthened daily by the Holy Spirit through the Word.

The Church Year is also divided into three sections: the Time of Christmas, the Time of Easter, and the Time of the Church. Each “time” includes smaller units called “seasons.” Within each season, we celebrate special days called “feasts” or “festivals,” such as Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, and Pentecost.

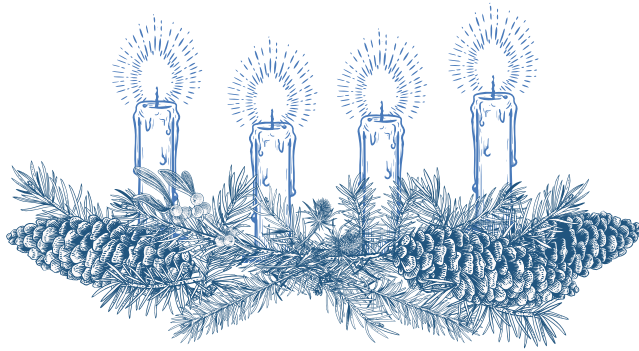
The Time of Christmas includes the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. The Time of Easter includes the Lent and Easter seasons. And the Time of the Church includes the Season after Pentecost. These three Times illustrate the work of the Holy Trinity. And though the three persons of the Trinity do not work separate from one another, it can be helpful to think in the following way: In the Time of Christmas, we remember how the Father sent His Son, Jesus, into the world. The Time of Easter focuses on Jesus’ Passion, His sacrificial death, and His glorious resurrection. The Time of the Church, the season after Pentecost, proclaims the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in the church.

For centuries, the church has used colors and symbols to help teach about the seasons and festivals of the Church Year. The cycle of colors and customs associated with each season and festival helps proclaim the message of the readings and events in the Church Year.

A companion book, *Enduring Grace: A Church Year Journal for Kids, One-Year*, is available for families to use alongside this journal. Reflections on lectionary readings, discussion prompts, Bible illustrations to color, and space for journaling will help kids and families connect and interact with God’s Word as they encourage one another in the faith.

For more on the Church Year and the lectionary, see “The Church Year,” pages 181–262, in *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Services* © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

THE ADVENT SEASON



Advent marks the beginning of the Christian Church Year. Advent begins the fourth Sunday before Christmas, or the Sunday closest to the Festival of St. Andrew (November 30), and ends with midday prayer on December 24. During the time of Advent, many churches add midweek evening services that focus on reflection and preparation to receive God's promise of a Savior.



The word *Advent* comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means “coming.” The four weeks of Advent are a time of reflective preparation for Christ’s first coming as a baby in the manger at Bethlehem. But we also look ahead to Christ’s second coming, when He will return in glory and take all believers to be with Him forever.

During the Advent season, we prepare to receive Jesus, the hope of the world. The color of Advent is violet or blue. Violet represents royalty and repentance, and blue symbolizes anticipation and hope.

Many congregations use the custom of the Advent wreath to mark the progress of the four Sundays leading to the celebration of Christmas. An Advent wreath has four candles—three violet or blue and one pink—one for each week in Advent. Each week an additional candle is lit, and our anticipation grows as we look forward to Jesus’ coming.

SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME

Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.

Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.

God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.

For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.

From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

REFLECTION ON THE HYMN

This hymn is nearly as old as the Christian Church, and it was written by Ambrose, one of the earliest writers of hymn texts. Martin Luther translated the original Latin text to German during the time of the Reformation. The English translation we sing today is the result of a group effort. The hymn spends the first half of eight stanzas marveling at the miracle of God becoming flesh in Jesus Christ. Stanza 5 takes a different pace, summarizing Jesus' epic travels from heaven to earth to hell and back to heaven again in just four lines of poetry. Before a poetic stanza 7 and a doxological stanza 8, stanza 6 offers a prayer for us to say during Advent: "For You are the Father's Son who in flesh the vict'ry won. By Your mighty pow'r make whole all our ills of flesh and soul." Amen! Savior of the nations, come and restore us through Your complete and victorious redemption.

REFLECTION & NOTES



FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

OLD TESTAMENT READING

JEREMIAH 23:5-8

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’

“Therefore, behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when they shall no longer say, ‘As the LORD lives who brought up the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt,’ but ‘As the LORD lives who brought up and led the offspring of the house of Israel out of the north country and out of all the countries where he had driven them.’ Then they shall dwell in their own land.”

EPISTLE

ROMANS 13:11-14

Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 21:1-9

When they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.” This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

“Say to the daughter of Zion,
‘Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble, and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”

PSALM

PSALM 24

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein,
for he has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.
Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.
He will receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.
Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle!
Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?
The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory!

THE COLLECT

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



THEME OF THE READINGS

“Hosanna to the Son of David!” Jesus, the righteous branch from David’s tree, comes in the name of the Lord. His messengers announce that the hour has come to wake from sleep. The Messiah-King who entered Jerusalem, mounted on a donkey, now reigns at God’s right hand, and He will come again to execute justice and righteousness on the Last Day. Cast off the works of darkness and put on the Lord Jesus Christ. He is your righteousness!

REFLECTION ON GOD’S WORD

PRAYERS

PRAISE & THANKSGIVING | REQUESTS & INTERCESSIONS

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

OLD TESTAMENT READING

MALACHI 4:1-6

“For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and just decrees that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

EPISTLE

ROMANS 15:4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,

and sing to your name.”

And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his
people.”

And again,

“Praise the Lord, all
you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples
extol him.”

And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to
rule the Gentiles;
in him will the
Gentiles hope.”

May the God of hope fill you with all
joy and peace in believing, so that by
the power of the Holy Spirit you may
abound in hope.

GOSPEL

LUKE 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] “There will be signs in
sun and moon and stars, and on the
earth distress of nations in perplexity
because of the roaring of the sea and
the waves, people fainting with fear
and with foreboding of what is coming
on the world. For the powers of the
heavens will be shaken. And then
they will see the Son of Man coming
in a cloud with power and great glory.
Now when these things begin to take
place, straighten up and raise your

heads, because your redemption is
drawing near.”

And he told them a parable: “Look at
the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon
as they come out in leaf, you see for
yourselves and know that the summer
is already near. So also, when you see
these things taking place, you know
that the kingdom of God is near. Truly,
I say to you, this generation will not
pass away until all has taken place.
Heaven and earth will pass away, but
my words will not pass away.

“But watch yourselves lest your hearts
be weighed down with dissipation and
drunkenness and cares of this life, and
that day come upon you suddenly like
a trap. For it will come upon all who
dwell on the face of the whole earth.
But stay awake at all times, praying
that you may have strength to escape
all these things that are going to
take place, and to stand before the
Son of Man.”

PSALM

PSALM 50:1-15

The Mighty One, God the LORD,
speaks and summons
the earth
from the rising of the
sun to its setting.
Out of Zion, the perfection
of beauty,
God shines forth.

Our God comes; he does
not keep silence;
before him is a
devouring fire,
around him a mighty
tempest.
He calls to the heavens above
and to the earth, that he
may judge his people:
“Gather to me my faithful ones,
who made a covenant
with me by sacrifice!”
The heavens declare his
righteousness,
for God himself is judge!
“Hear, O my people, and
I will speak;
O Israel, I will testify
against you.
I am God, your God.
Not for your sacrifices
do I rebuke you;
your burnt offerings are
continually before me.
I will not accept a bull
from your house
or goats from
your folds.
For every beast
of the
forest is mine,
the cattle on a
thousand
hills.
I know all the
birds

of the hills,
and all that moves in
the field is mine.
“If I were hungry, I would
not tell you,
for the world and its
fullness are mine.
Do I eat the flesh of bulls
or drink the blood of goats?
Offer to God a sacrifice
of thanksgiving,
and perform your vows
to the Most High,
and call upon me in the
day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and
you shall glorify me.”

THE COLLECT

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to
make ready the way of Your
only-begotten Son, that by His
coming we may be enabled to serve
You with pure minds; through
the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever.



THEME OF THE READINGS

God fulfilled His promise to send a new Elijah in the person of John the Baptizer, who worked to turn the hearts of the people and prepare the way of the Lord. Jesus likewise warned the people that the end was near. God has provided His Word for the instruction of all people, Jews and Gentiles alike, so that through it we might have hope as we await Christ's second coming. Rejoice with His people, "because your redemption is drawing near!"

REFLECTION ON GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS

PRAISE & THANKSGIVING | REQUESTS & INTERCESSIONS