



THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

Daily Devotion at Zion + December 2022 AD + [Advent/Christmas](#)

Keeping Watch

A quarry in Wisconsin's Fox Valley used to hold "Quarry Quest," an opportunity for the public to tour the quarry and learn about the work done there. That work happened all year, but the "Quarry Quest" was just a few days to spotlight it. The season of Advent is similar.

The Church keeps watch all year, and it's rigorous work. It's the work of devotion, seeking Christ wherever He promises to be: prayer, Scripture, the invocation of His sacred Name, His Supper, His Church, and His pure way of life. The Church always engages this devotional life, but Advent is like a "devotion quest," highlighting and emphasizing that path for us.

Advent rings with the message, "Keep watch." It calls us to renew our hope and dare to light a lamp in the darkness, praying to One whom we cannot see and confessing His presence in the humble means of His Church. Such devotion requires a spiritual rigor that springs from repentance as we follow John the Baptist's call, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

Some might say that such rigor isn't for the fainthearted. In fact, it is precisely for the fainthearted, the weak, the doubtful, and the erring. Advent is for everyone, because the Lord whom it hails comes for all. To watch for Christ is joy and renewal, because such watching doesn't disappoint.

About the Cover Art

In Christ's parable of the wise and foolish virgins, the bridegroom (signifying Christ) leads his bride into the wedding feast, followed by the wise virgins (bridesmaids) who kept their lamps lit. On the steps in the foreground, begging the viewer's attention, are the sleeping, foolish virgins who did not keep watch. Arrayed in multicolored clothes, they contrast with the virginal purity of the wise bridesmaids. Baron Ernst Karlovich Liphart (sometimes, Ernst Friedrich Lipgart), painted this image in 1886.

Daily Readings for the Week of Advent 2 (December 4)

S Isaiah 5:1-7
2 Peter 3:11-18
Luke 7:28-35

Th Isaiah 7:1-9
2 Thessalonians 2:1-12
Luke 22:1-13

M Isaiah 5:8-17
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Luke 21:20-28

F Isaiah 7:10-25
2 Thessalonians 2:13—
3:5
Luke 22:14-30

T Isaiah 5:18-25
1 Thessalonians 5:12-28
Luke 21:29-38

Sa Isaiah 8:1-15
2 Thessalonians 3:5-18
Luke 22:31-38

W Isaiah 6:1-13
2 Thessalonians 1:1-12
John 7:53—8:11

*These readings correspond
to pages 32—61 in Volume I
of For All the Saints.*

Daily Readings for the Week of Advent 3 (December 11)

S Isaiah 13:1-13
Hebrews 12:18-29
John 3:22-30

Th Isaiah 9:18—10:4
2 Peter 2:10b-16
Matthew 3:1-12

M Isaiah 8:16—9:1
2 Peter 1:1-11
Luke 22:39-53

F Isaiah 10:5-19
2 Peter 2:17-22
Matthew 11:2-15

T Isaiah 9:2-7
2 Peter 1:12-21
Luke 22:54-69

Sa Isaiah 10:20-27
Jude 17-25
Luke 3:1-9

W Isaiah 9:8-17
2 Peter 2:1-10a
Mark 1:1-8

*These readings correspond
to pages 61—91 in Volume I
of For All the Saints.*

Daily Readings for the Week of Advent 4 (December 18)

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| S Isaiah 11:1-9
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 3:16-21 | Th Isaiah 31:1-9
Revelation 21:22—22:5
Luke 1:39-56 |
| M Isaiah 11:10-16
Revelation 20:1-10
John 5:30-47 | F Isaiah 33:17-22
Revelation 22:6-11,
18-20
Luke 1:57-66 |
| T Isaiah 28:9-22
Revelation 20:11—21:8
Luke 1:5-25 | Sa Isaiah 35:1-10
Revelation 22:12-17, 21
Luke 1:67-80 |
| W Isaiah 29:9-24
Revelation 21:9-21
Luke 1:26-38 | |

These readings correspond to pages 91—124 in Volume I of For All the Saints.

Daily Readings for the Week of Christmas (December 25)

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| S Zechariah 2:10-13
1 John 4:7-16
John 3:31-36 | Th Isaiah 12:1-6
Revelation 1:1-8
John 7:37-52 |
| M 2 Chronicles 24:17-22
Acts 6:1-7
Acts 7:59—8:8 | F Isaiah 25:1-9
Revelation 1:9-20
John 7:53—8:11 |
| T Proverbs 8:22-30
1 John 5:1-12
John 13:20-35 | Sa Isaiah 26:1-6
2 Corinthians 5:16—6:2
John 8:12-19 |
| W Isaiah 49:13-23
Isaiah 54:1-13
Matthew 18:1-14 | |

These readings correspond to pages 127—159 in Volume I of For All the Saints.