

8 Isaiah 9:6; 11; Romans 15:1-13
 9 Psalm 62; 4
 10 Luke 12:13-34; Philippians 4:4-9
 11 Psalm 46; 9:7-10; 100:3; 4:8; John 14:15-27
 12 Psalm 143; 27:11; Romans 5:1-11; 8:6; 12:9-21; 14:19; Galatians 5:13-21
 13 Proverbs 29:17; Hebrews 12:1-14; James 3:17-18; Ephesians 4:3; 6:14-15
 14 Matthew 10; Ephesians 2:14-22; Romans 5:1-11

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down. Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown! Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art. Visit us with Thy salvation, enter every trembling heart. Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive. Suddenly return, and never, never more Thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above. Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

15 Psalm 25; Jeremiah 3:25; Ephesians 2:1-10; Psalm 32
 16 Psalm 86; Exodus 34:6; Joel 2:13; John 15:8-17
 17 John 13:1-17; 1 John 1; 2
 18 1 John 3; John 13:34-35
 19 John 3:16-18; Romans 5:6-8; 1 John 4:7-21
 20 1 John 5; Psalm 36; 106:1
 21 1 Corinthians 13; Psalm 118:1; 1 Corinthians 10:24; Romans 15:1-2

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven. No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in. O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel. (Worship in Song, No. 174)

22 Psalm 2; 24; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Psalm 89:35-36
 23 Isaiah 7:14; 8:5-10; 9:2-6; 11:1-5; 53
 24 Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56; Genesis 17:19; Psalm 132:11-18; Galatians 3:16
 25 Luke 2:1-20; Colossians 1:15-23; Isaiah 43:1-3; 45:22
 26 John 1:1-34; 3:14-21, 36; 6:35-51; 12:44-45
 27 Leviticus 12; Luke 2:21-40; Isaiah 42:1-9; 8:13-17; 40:1-11; John 10:11; Psalm 23
 28 Micah 5:1-5a; Matthew 2

Tell me the story of Jesus, write on my heart every word. Tell me the story most precious, sweetest that ever was heard. Tell how the angels, in chorus, sang as they welcomed His birth; "Glory to God in the highest! Peace and good tidings to earth." Fasting alone in the desert, tell of the days that are past: How for our sins He was tempted, yet was triumphant at last. Tell of the years of His labor; Tell of the sorrow He bore. He was despised and afflicted, homeless, rejected, and poor. Tell me the story of Jesus; tell me the story most precious, sweetest that ever was heard.

29 Luke 2:41-52; Isaiah 11; Proverbs 3:1-6
 30 Matthew 3; Mark 1:1-11; Acts 2:38; Romans 6
 31 Luke 4:1-14; Hebrews 2:14-18; 4:14-16; 1 Corinthians 10:13; James 1:12-15



First Cup Readings

November - December 2013



Let the morning bring me word
 of your unfailing love,
 for I have put my trust in you.
 Show me the way I should go,
 for to you I lift up my soul.

-Psalm 143:8

Dear Family in Christ,

First Cup is designed to assist you in the habit of daily Bible reading and prayer. The name is to remind you that as you reach for your first cup of morning coffee or tea, reach also for your Bible and prayer list. The prayers at the beginning of each week are taken from hymns, sometimes found in obscure hymnals in my library. They are intended to be read as your beginning prayer, to focus your mind on the daily readings that follow. May this spiritual discipline strengthen you as you face each day.

Blessings and love in Christ,
Sandy Sturch & Claire Averyt

Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth Thou hast for me: Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Open my ears that I may hear voices of truth Thou sendest clear; and while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere; open my heart, and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share. Silently now I wait for Thee, ready, My God, Thy will to see. Spirit divine!

NOVEMBER

- 1 Luke 18:31-34; Psalm 41:9; 22:16-18; Isaiah 53; Psalm 16:9-10; Matthew 16:18-21
- 2 Luke 18:35-43; John 9; Psalm 146

Oh, I love to walk with Jesus, like the publicans of old, when He gathered them about Him and the blessing tidings told: How He came to bring deliverance to the captives in distress; take away our every burden, giving perfect peace and rest. Oh, I love to walk with Jesus like the man of long ago, who had tarried by the wayside near the gates of Jericho. Jesus heard his cry for mercy, gave him back his sight that day and immediately he followed Jesus all along the way. Oh, I love to walk with Jesus all the way to Cal-v'ry's brow, gaze upon that scene of suffering while my tears of sorrow flow. There He tells me how He loves me, takes my every sin away; so I follow Him so gladly, lead me anywhere He may. (Worship in Song, # 119)

- 3 Psalm 14; Mark 2:13-17; Luke 19:1-10; Proverbs 8:17; Jeremiah 29:13; Isaiah 55
- 4 Luke 19:11-27; Proverbs 27:18; Matthew 25:31-46
- 5 Luke 19:28-44; Matthew 21:1-11; Zechariah 2, 9:9; Psalm 118
- 6 Luke 19:45-48; John 2:13-22; I Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19-20; Ephesians 2
- 7 Psalm 118; Luke 20:1-19; Acts 4:1-12; I Peter 2:1-10
- 8 Luke 20:20-26; Romans 13; Colossians 3:12-14; 1 Peter 5:5-12
- 9 Luke 20:27-40; John 11:1-45; Romans 6:8-14; 1 Corinthians 15:20-58

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand--the shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land; a home within the wilderness' a rest upon the way from the burning of the noontide heat and the burden of the day. Upon the cross of Jesus mine eyes at times can see the very dying form of one who suffered there for me: and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess--the wonders of redeeming love and mu unworthiness. (The Hymnbook, No. 190)

- 10 Malachi 2:1-9; Matthew 23; Luke 20:41-47; 1 Peter 5:1-4
- 11 Luke 21:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; 9:6-15; 1 Kings 17:1-16; Proverbs 3:27-28
- 12 Luke 21:5-38; 2 Timothy 3; 2 Peter 3
- 13 Luke 22:1-6; Matthew 26:1-16; Matthew 10
- 14 Luke 22:7-71; John 13:13-38; Titus 1:10-16; Jude 3-4; 1 John 2:20-23
- 15 Matthew 27:1-56; Luke 23; John 19
- 16 Matthew 28:1-15; Luke 24:1-53; 1 Corinthians 15

Depth of mercy! Can there by mercy still reserved for me? Can my God His wrath forbear? Me, the chief of sinners, spare? I have long withstood His grace, long provoked Him to His face; would not hearken to His calls, grieved Him by a thousand falls. Still for me the Savior stands, shows His wounds, and spreads His hands. God is love! I know, I feel; Jesus weeps, and loves me still. (The Hymnbook, No. 273)

- 17 Judges 1-2; Deuteronomy 4:1-14; 6:10-7:6; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18
- 18 Judges 3; Deuteronomy 8-9; Psalm 50
- 19 Judges 4-5; Psalm 89
- 20 Judges 6; Exodus 34:10-14; Ezekiel 13:13-23; Colossians 3:5-11; Ephesians 5:3-6
- 21 Judges 7-8; Deuteronomy 20:8; Psalm 76; 2 Corinthians 4:7-18
- 22 Judges 13-14; Proverbs 12:4; 16:9; 18:22; 20:24; 22:6; Jeremiah 10:23
- 23 Judges 15-16; Proverbs 6:20-26, 34; 14:1; 16:4, 9; 31:30; Ecclesiastes 7

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices, Who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices; Who from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us; and keep us in God's grace, and guide us when perplexed, and free us from all ills in this world and the next. [Worship in Song, No. 88]

- 24 Deuteronomy 31:30-32:47; Isaiah 65
- 25 Psalm 103; Exodus 34:5-7; Hebrews 1:14; Psalm 150
- 26 Psalm 145; Matthew 6:19-34; Philippians 4:4-20
- 27 Psalm 107; 115
- 28 Psalm 100; Colossians 3:1-17
- 29 Psalm 84; Matthew 10:29-31; Proverbs 3; Psalm 56:3
- 30 Psalm 106; Revelation 7:9-17

ADVENT means coming; arrival. The early church did not celebrate Jesus' birth but looked forward to his second coming. As we celebrate Jesus' first coming (past), we eagerly await his second coming. Our focus is to know the signs and be prepared.

Jesus is coming to earth again, What if it were today? Coming in power and love to reign, What if it were today? Coming to claim His chosen bride, all the redeemed and purified, over this whole earth scattered wide, What if it were today? Faithful and true would He find us here if He should come today? Watching in gladness and not in fear, if He should come today? Signs of His coming multiply; morning light breaks in eastern sky. Watch, for the time is drawing nigh, What if it were today?

DECEMBER

- 1 Isaiah 59:1-20; Ezekiel 18:30-32; Romans 11:25-27
- 2 Isaiah 40; Matthew 3:1-3; Mark 1:4; Luke 3:2-6
- 3 Matthew 24; Revelation 16:15; Luke 12:35-48
- 4 1 Thessalonians 4; I Corinthians 15:35-58
- 5 1 Thessalonians 5; Ephesians 6:10-20; 1 Corinthians 1:8
- 6 Isaiah 5:18-19; 2 Peter 3; Ezekiel 12:21-28; Isaiah 14:24; 45:18-25
- 7 2 Thessalonians 1; 2

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee." When the shadows come and darkness falls, He giveth inward peace. O He is the only perfect resting place, He giveth perfect peace! "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee." 'Tis the promise of the Holy One, "My peace I give to thee." Tho' the storms of life in fury rage, Thy Refuge sure is He. Oh, He is the only perfect resting place! He giveth perfect peace. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee." (Worship in Song," No. 418)