

DECEMBER 14, 2025
THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT



Advent is a season of joy.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 11:2-11	Jesus and John the Baptist
Monday	Isaiah 35:1-10	The return to Zion
Tuesday	James 5:7-10	Patience in suffering
Wednesday	1 Thessalonians 5:12-23	A final greeting
Thursday	Nehemiah 8:9-12	Ezra reads God's Law
Friday	Philippians 4:4-9	Paul encourages the people
Saturday	Psalms 146:5-10	Praise for God's help
Sunday	Matthew 1:18-25	God is with us

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. Isaiah 35:5-6 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, you who bring healing, hope, and joy to the world, give us the faith to trust your never-ending care through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, you who made heaven and earth, we thank you for this food, a sign of your never-failing love. Amen. (Psalm 146:6)

A Blessing to Give:

May you receive joy and gladness through Jesus Christ.



© 2025 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

DECEMBER 14, 2025

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Joy to the World



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When is a time you have been filled with joy?
- In what ways does God's love for us bring joy?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Isaiah 35:1-10.

The people of Israel were exiled far from home, imprisoned in Babylon, a foreign land. The people were wondering if there was a future for them. Did the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob abandon them? We can ask similar questions. Will our children have faith? Has our Lord abandoned us? To all such concerns and questions Isaiah responds with unbelievable images of God doing amazing things: the blind will see; the deaf will hear; the lame will walk; and those who can't talk will sing for joy. God makes the impossible, possible. Advent reminds us of God's power and promise that is like no other. Advent is a time for joy and being patient for God to do what only God can do, that is, save God's people.

Discuss: How does God's promise of care for our daily needs bring you joy?

Pray: Come, Lord Jesus, help us to trust your amazing healing power for our lives and our world. Amen.

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help supply daily needs to those in your community who are dealing with hardships?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

This week light three candles on the Advent wreath: The Candle of Hope, the Candle of Peace, and the Candle of Joy. The Candle of Joy reflects the joyful return of God's people to Zion.

Leader: This is the third week of Advent. Advent means *coming*. We are waiting for the coming of Christ. Let us light the Candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy.

[Light three candles]

All: *Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.* (Isaiah 35:5-6)

Leader: Let us walk in the light of Christ that gives us joy.

Pray: Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming with hope, peace, and joy. May we see with the eyes of faith the work of your kingdom in our lives and world. Amen.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org