

DAILY READINGS

Sunday	Isaiah 60:1-3
Monday	Luke 2:19; Psalm 14
Tuesday	Luke 2:20-21; Psalm 15
Wednesday	Luke 2:22-40; Psalm 16
Thursday	Matthew 2:1-12; Psalm 17:1-6
Friday	Matthew 2:13-23; Psalm 17:7-15
Saturday	Luke 2:41-52; Psalm 18:1-5

DEVOTIONAL: READ ISAIAH 60:1-3

The dictionary defines “advent” as the arrival of someone or something noteworthy. We might speak of the advent of the printing press. It was an invention that seemed to change everything. The advent of Christ, His birth in a stable, would change everything forever.

Before Jesus and throughout the Old Testament, we see the Bible revealing the concept of God’s glory. His glory reveals His supreme significance. Prior to the arrival of Jesus, mankind could not fully approach or perceive the glory of God; that glory was hidden from humanity because of the inability created by sin. However, when Jesus came as God in the flesh He brought the glory of God face-to-face with a limited and lost people.

Isaiah 60:1-3 frames the glory of God in the coming of His Messiah being like the sun rising to bring light to the earth. “Arise, shine, for your light has come,”

writes Isaiah (60:1). He is answering the question posed by King David in Psalm 24:10 some 300 years earlier: “Who is this King of glory?” (Psalm 24:10). David’s answer, “The Lord of hosts,” points to God in heaven in all of His glory.

Seven hundred years after Isaiah wrote those words, the Apostle John tells us that Jesus brought God’s glory to the earth. “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). The weight of God’s glory, long expected, long predicted, had come in the person of Jesus Christ! It was the advent of the glory of God on earth, and nothing would ever be the same. Let the light of God’s glory in the person of Jesus Christ shine upon your life and cast out darkness, forever changing you as Jesus has forever changed everything!

REFLECTION

Where do you see God's glory today? How do you recognize the glory of God when you see it?

Has the coming of God's glory in the person of Jesus changed your life? How has your life changed, and how do you see it continuing to change?

What are some things that compete with God for glory? How can we keep Christ at the center of our Christmas celebration and not allow our focus to go to anyone or anything else?

DISCUSSION

What is something in your life that changed everything?

PRAYER

God of all Glory, Your Name is above all names. At Your Name, every knee will bow and tongue confess that You alone are God. You have no equal. Nothing in all creation compares to the greatness and goodness of You, our Creator.

Father of Lights, we live in a dark world, and it is often difficult to see Your glory on display in our day-to-day lives. But Jesus, You declared that You are the Light of the World and that those who trust You would not walk in darkness but will have the light of life. Don't let me live in darkness! Help me to live daily by the light that You bring and let others see Your light in me.

O God, help me to see You and know You, to behold Your glory, taste Your goodness. Please, show me Your glory! May Your will be done in my life as it is in heaven. Let me live for You today as I long for You to come again in Your glory! Amen.