

# Read - Think - Pray

First Sunday of Advent B, 28 November to 3 December, Prepared by:  
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**Monday**

**Psalm**

**Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

**Think:**

'Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.' - Psalm 80:19

It is the first Sunday of the Christian Liturgical Year; it begins with hope - as we look forward to the coming of Christ; then - and - now. Every year represents another chance to crown him Lord in our lives.

**Pray:**

Hope is the beginning of our journey - the hope that Jesus would come and reign in us and bring the Kingdom to bear in our world. Pray that we would be able to see ourselves with the same hopeful eyes that Jesus sees us.

**Tuesday**

**Old**

**Testament**

**Isaiah 64:1-9**

**Think:**

'O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.' - Isaiah 64:8

Isaiah pleads with God to 'tear the heavens open and come down;' mindful of our brokenness he also begs for mercy. In his appeal he reminds God that He made us - as if calling God to remember the hope he had for us when he created us.

**Pray:**

Why not pray this passage with Isaiah?

**Wednesday**

**Epistle**

**1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

**Think:**

Isaiah prayed before Jesus came, Paul writes after the Resurrection. It seems Isaiah's prayers were answered. God remembered that he made us - and he worked in us like a potter works with clay to transform us. Paul writes: '...you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind.' (1 Cor 1:4-5)

Paul further reminds us: 'He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.'

**Pray:**

Pray that we may also be enriched because of our relationship with Jesus and what God has done.

**Thursday**

**Gospel**

**Mark 13:24-37**

**Think:**

Mark 13 and parallel passages in Matthew and Luke are often understood to be predictions of the distant future. On the other hand - considering that the destruction of the temple took place in AD70 in the midst of a tumultuous war between the Jews and the Romans, Jesus might be speaking about his own time.

Either way he promises the beginning of a new era - and he invites us to be awake and ready for it.

**Pray:**

The apocalyptic imagery of Mark 13 makes us both nervous and excited as we look forward (with trepidation) to what God can do in the world... Pray that we would have the same hope when it comes to what God can do in our lives.

**Friday**

**Next week's gospel**

**Mark 1:1-8**

**Think:**

'I will baptize you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.' - Mark 1:8

Maybe its a bit of a stretch for language - but - the greek word for dyeing cloth (by dipping in stain); is almost the same as the word for baptizing people. I imagine people so saturated with the Spirit that they look like Jesus.

**Pray:**

Pray that each of us would be soaked in the Holy Spirit by Jesus.