

**Walking in Christ's Light  
Daily Prayer Journal  
December 1-6, 2008**

*Growing our souls is a partnership with Christ.  
To enable your soul's growth, use this material with Christ as your guide.*

**Next Week's Sermon**

**Scripture: Isaiah 40:1-11 and Luke 3:7-18**

([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=isaiah+40:1-11](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=isaiah+40:1-11))

([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+3:7-18](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=luke+3:7-18))

**Theme: All are welcome at Christ's Cradle**

**Sermon: "The Wild Man of Christmas"**

**Question: Who is acceptable at the stable?**

**MONDAY 12-1-08**

**Read:** Mark 13:24-37 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=mark+13:24-37](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=mark+13:24-37))

**Prayer:** Faithful and Loving God, Your promises stand unshaken throughout all generations. I do not need to be afraid when I am daily working for You. So, I ask with a deep desire for service in Your blessed name, Jesus, daily renew in me the hope of Your eternal love. Daily renew in me the strength of purpose to be alert, awake, and watching for Your glorious return, my Redeemer and Savior. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** The Greek word (*gregoreite*) Jesus uses in vs.35 is the same word he uses in the Garden of Gethsemane when he tells the disciples to "Stay awake!" In other words: Stay conscious! Stay aware! Keep your head up and your eyes open; instead of just surviving today with your head down, doing the work you have to do! Choose to live fully alive in the Spirit of Christ. Keep your eyes open to everyone and everything around you. Keep your ears open to hear the words under the words that are spoken. Keep your mind open to the creative learning that is possible when Jesus is the teacher. And, keep your heart open to the moving of the Holy Spirit in your life today! .

**Resolve:** I will live today awake and aware of Jesus presence in my life.

**TUESDAY 12-2-08**

**Read:** Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+80:1-7;17-19](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=psalm+80:1-7;17-19))

**Prayer:** Lord God of Heaven and Earth, I join with the Psalmist and ask for Your shining face to be made known in all the world. Restore to Your Church the joy of Your salvation. Fill us all with the light of Your presence today and every day until the end of the age. May we be people who live within Your light and reflect Your light to others. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** Notice how God's work is always in the light. God is continually bringing light to darkness. Truth is identified in the light. The right way of living is in the light. The Spirit of Jesus Christ brings people from the darkness of sin (separation from God) into the light filled relationship with God. Jesus' self-identification is "the light of the world". Choose today to ask Jesus Christ to enlighten your heart, mind, soul, and body.

**Resolve:** I will walk with Jesus in the light all day today.

**WEDNESDAY 12-3-08**

**Read:** I Corinthians 1:3-9 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=1+corinthians+1:3-9](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=1+corinthians+1:3-9))

**Prayer:** Great is Your faithfulness, O God, my Abba. I can trust You when I can trust no one else! I can place my hope in you when everyone else is feeling hopeless. Thank You for being in my life today and every day. I am thankful You chose me to be in Your family. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** Through God's grace in Jesus Christ you are enriched! Ponder your true wealth today! Be awake to the impermanence of material wealth. Become aware of the eternal nature of spiritual wealth. Ask Jesus to give you power to grow in spiritual treasure through the building up of God's Beloved Community in your neighborhood, place of work, and home. Prepare your heart, mind, and soul today so that tomorrow with your family you can give thanks for what is actually important.

**Resolve:** I will share God's grace and grow in spiritual treasure today.

**THURSDAY 12-4-08**

**Read:** Isaiah 64:1-9 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=isaiah+64:1-9](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=isaiah+64:1-9))

**Prayer:** "Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son, Jesus Christ, came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reign's with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever." Amen. (*The Book of Common Prayer*, p.211)

**Journal Reflection:** The prophet Isaiah is caught between the desire for God's power and the longing for God's love. As he looks around him, Isaiah sees the absence of any respect for the Almighty. He acknowledges the sin of the people and longs for an intimate relationship with God again. The spiritual life is just such a journey. Sometimes we are called to walk by faith and not by sight. Sometimes we walk with God even when we do not experience God's touch. Where are you on the path today? Is God very real in your life or very far off? Faithful living for God is much more difficult when you do not directly feel God's presence. Faithful living is walking the "God path" even when you cannot experience God's guiding hand.

**Resolve:** I will live for God no matter what anybody says or does today.

**FRIDAY 12-5-08**

**Read:** Mark 14:32-42 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=mark+14:32-42](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=mark+14:32-42))

**Prayer:** Staying awake, Jesus, is not an easy thing to do. I am lulled to sleep by good food, a comfortable home, a good job, and a nice family. Staying awake, staying alert, staying on watch for You is not an easy task. But then, Jesus, You did say that I would have more trouble following you than getting a camel through a needle's eye. You did warn me that following you was like carrying my own cross. You did warn me that I would need to leave home to serve you. My great and loving Shepherd, take Your rod and staff and keep me moving and awake! Shepherd of all the sheep, even this one, lead me in the way You want me to go and I will follow. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** Do you see a parallel between keeping awake for the Second Coming of our Lord and staying awake while Jesus prays in Gethsemane? Do you see a relationship with the way the church is now and Jesus command to stay awake? What about how your life is in relationship to Jesus, are you awake? Choose today to ask Jesus to be so strong within your life that you cannot deny, wrongly observe, or forget Jesus Christ in your life today. Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you so that you can celebrate each moment with Jesus today and in anticipation of the second coming of Jesus into our world.

**Resolve:** I am open to Jesus being powerfully present in my life today.

**SATURDAY 12-6-08**

**Read:** Revelation 7:9-12 ([www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=revelation+7:9-12](http://www.biblegateway.com/bible?passage=revelation+7:9-12))

**Prayer:** Infinite, Eternal Creator God, I join with people from every nation singing Your glory and honor! Thank You for granting me the opportunity to participate in singing Your creation song. I know I don't sing very well, Lord. And, I am so thankful that You accept my singing voice as an offering of my heart filled with love for You. Amen.

**Journal Reflection:** Reread today's Scripture with a visual picture in your mind. Imagine the millions of people gathered and singing! Ponder the beauty of "the Lamb, robed in white". Notice the angels and elders kneeling before God's throne. Let their song be your song all day today. Allow this vision of heaven to empower you to live for Jesus today. (vs.12)

**Resolve:** I unite my life with God's creative and worshipful song today.