



FIRST CUP READINGS

DECEMBER, 2023

Blessings and love in Christ,

Sandy Sturch

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.

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

- 1 1 Thessalonians 4; 1 Corinthians 15:35-58
- 2 1 Thessalonians 5; Ephesians 6:10-20;
1 Corinthians 1:8

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee." When the shadows come and darkness falls, He giveth inward peace. 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." '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)

- 3 Isaiah 5:18-19; 2 Peter 3; Ezekiel 12:21-28;
Isaiah 14:24; 45:18-25
- 4 2 Thessalonians 1-2
- 5 Isaiah 9:6; 11; Micah 5:2-5; Romans 15:1-13
- 6 Psalm 62; 4
- 7 Luke 12:13-34; Philippians 4:6-7
- 8 Psalm 46; 9:7-10; 100:3; 4:8; John 14:26-27
- 9 Psalm 143; 27:11; John 14:23-27;
Romans 5:1-5; 8:6; 12:17-21; 14:19

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, 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 ev'ry 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. (Worship in Song, No. 16)

- 10 Proverbs 29:17; Hebrews 12:1-14; James 3:17-18;
Ephesians 4:3; 6:14-15
- 11 Matthew 10; Ephesians 2:14-22; Romans 5:1-11
- 12 Psalm 25; Jeremiah 3:25; Ephesians 2:1-10;
Psalm 32
- 13 Psalm 86; Exodus 34:6; Joel 2:13; John 15:8-17
- 14 John 13:1-17; 1 John 1; 2
- 15 1 John 3; John 13:34-35
- 16 John 3:16-18; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4; 2:3-4, 9-11

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n. 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 on 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. Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel. (Worship in Song, No. 174)

- 17 1 John 5; Psalm 36; 106:1
- 18 1 Corinthians 13; Psalm 118:1; 1 Corinthians 10:24;
Romans 15:1-2
- 19 Psalm 96; Hebrews 1:1-12
- 20 Isaiah 52; Psalm 98; Psalm 126
- 21 Psalm 2; 24; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Psalm 89:35-36
- 22 Isaiah 7:14; 8:5-10; 9:2-6; 11:1-5; 53
- 23 Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56; Genesis 17:19;
Psalm 132:11-18; Galatians 3:16

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee. As with joyous steps they sped to that lowly manger bed, There to bend the knee before Him whom heaven and earth adore, so may we with willing feet ever seek Thy mercy seat. As they offered gifts most rare at that manger rude and bare, So may we with holy joy, Pure, and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King. (Worship in Song, No. 173)

- 24 Luke 2:1-20; Colossians 1:15-23; Isaiah 43:1-3; 45:22
- 25 John 1:1-34; 3:14-21, 36; 6:35-51; 12:44-45
- 26 Leviticus 12; Luke 2:21-40;
Isaiah 42:1-9; 8:13-17; 40:1-11; John 10:11; Psalm 23
- 27 Micah 5:1-5; Matthew 2
- 28 Luke 2:41-52; Proverbs 3:1-6
- 29 Luke 3:1-23a; John 1:1-34
- 30 Matthew 11:1-15; Mark 6:6b-29;
Matthew 10:32-42
- 31 Psalm 90; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10