

Listening for the Promise

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*“Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.”*

- Psalm 25:5 -

The Light of Salvation

Have you ever noticed that a lamp appears brighter at night than it does during the day? It isn't that the lamp is brighter, but that the light from that lamp is diminished by the light that surrounds it. The lamp overcomes darkness much better than other light. That's why faith and the Gospel stand out so much more clearly when the world is in chaos.

We don't think much about God so much when things are going well. We pray and worship and offer thanks, but we don't fall on our knees in hopeful expectation of God's grace. However, we see our need for Him when we face a crisis and turn to Him in desperate prayer and expectation. Christ is not a softer light in the good times, but His light does not seem quite as bright when we need Him most.

Darkness has existed from the beginning of time. The world is constantly in flux and goes from bright moments of hope and peace to times filled with hatred and war. We begin Advent in darkness as a reminder of our life without Jesus. The light of our Advent wreaths shines brighter and brighter as we light one new candle each Sunday. That's how it is in our texts throughout this season. We begin with a promise, watch as God prepares the world for the coming of our Lord, and then end on Christmas Day with the fulfillment of the promise: Jesus Christ is born. The true Light comes into the world.

As we enter this season of waiting and wonder, let us keep our hearts and minds on the One for whom we wait, looking to His faithfulness, mercy, and grace. Jesus is coming! He is the child in the manger and the King in the clouds. He is the fulfillment of all God's promises of salvation and the restoration. Jesus is the Light that will never be overcome, He banishes the darkness of our chaotic world.