

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening

Week 11: Our readings in Advent come from the prophets. Prophets sit so still and listen so deeply, they hear God speaking. Then they tell everyone what they hear.

In days to come

**the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the
mountains,**

**and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.**

**Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the
LORD,**

**to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'**

**For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from
Jerusalem.**

**He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into
ploughshares,**

**and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against
nation,**

neither shall they learn war any more.

**O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk**

in the light of the LORD! Isaiah 2.1-5

Come, let us
walk in the
light of the
Lord!

Choose the reflective questions
that suit your family:

What does the prophet hear? People inviting us to walk in the light of the LORD. What do we know about light? It is warm. It is beautiful. What else? How warm and beautiful is the light of the LORD?

Ages 3-6

What does the prophet hear? On the mountain of the LORD's house, people turn swords and spears—weapons—into tools. What will the people build with these tools? What would *we* build?

Ages 6-9

What does the prophet hear? The mountain of the LORD's house will become the highest. How will that happen? Who will raise it above the hills? The prophet does not know that the mountains of Israel are not very high at all. What does this tell us about how much God desires for us to climb to the LORD's house?

Teenagers

What does the prophet hear? He hears what the LORD thinks about war. He hears a vision of peace. No wonder the prophet calls us to climb the mountain and walk in the light of the LORD! Can we help fulfill this vision? How can the word of the LORD coming from Jerusalem instruct us?

Ages 9-12

Read the scripture.

Ask questions.

Listen to each other's answers.

Then pray the prayer together on page 2.

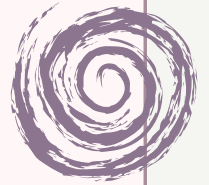
Listen Prayer

One person leads and everyone else responds (R.)

Lord, our God,

We praise you for the wisdom of your will that unfolds all around us. We desire to enter more profoundly into this mystery, to root ourselves firmly in your will, to listen ever more deeply to you.

R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.



Teach us to listen closely to your Word—to the words on the page and the meaning they invoke, to the human author and to the divine, to the spaces between the letters where your Spirit dwells.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen attentively to Creation—to the voice of the earth, to the whispering of wind and waves, to the silence of the rocks and soil and swarms of voiceless creatures.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen respectfully to the culture that surrounds us—to its wisdom and its folly, to the loud voices and the quiet, to that which can teach us and form us and expand our thinking.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

And teach us, Lord, to listen deeply to one another—to what we speak aloud and to what we leave unsaid, to our needs and to our concerns, to the love and the longing and desires of our hearts.

**R. We come before you.
We make ourselves still.
We listen to understand.
Amen.**

