

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the themes from Pastor Pett's sermon from Sunday, November 30, 2025, the First Sunday in Advent:

## 5-Day Advent Devotional: Preparing Our Hearts

### Day 1: Wake from Sleep

Reading: [Romans 13:11-14](#)

Devotional:

"The hour has come for you to wake from sleep." Paul's urgent words remind us that salvation draws nearer with each passing day. Like the frantic preparations before Christmas, our spiritual lives require intentional attention. We cannot afford to sleepwalk through our faith journey. What areas of your life have you been spiritually drowsy? The coming of Christ—both His first advent and His promised return—demands our alertness. Today, examine your heart honestly. Are you truly awake to God's presence and work in your life? Ask the Holy Spirit to shake off any spiritual slumber and awaken you to the urgency of living fully for Christ. The night is far gone; the day is at hand.

### Day 2: Casting Off Darkness

Reading: [Ephesians 5:8-14](#)

Devotional:

Before decorating for Christmas, we must first remove what doesn't belong. Spiritually, this means casting off "works of darkness"—anything that isn't love. The commandments are beautifully summarized: love God, love your neighbor. Yet how often do we fail? A sharp word to a spouse, impatience with a coworker, harboring resentment—these are the "decorations" we must take down. But here's the beautiful truth: we don't merely discard these sins into a trash bin. We bring them to the foot of the cross, where Jesus destroys them completely. His forgiveness isn't partial or conditional; it's absolute. Today, identify one specific "work of darkness" in your life. Confess it honestly, throw it at the cross, and receive Christ's perfect forgiveness.

### Day 3: Putting On the Armor of Light

Reading: [Ephesians 6:10-18](#)

Devotional:

In a world filled with darkness—violence, immorality, division—we desperately need light. God doesn't send us into battle defenseless. He provides the armor of light: the helmet of salvation, shield of faith, breastplate of righteousness, belt of truth, shoes of the gospel, and sword of the Spirit. This wasn't cheap armor; it cost Jesus His very blood. Each piece represents what Christ accomplished for us at the cross. Unlike earthly gifts that wear out, this armor never fails. The shield of faith extinguishes every flaming arrow of doubt. The sword of the Spirit—God's Word—defeats every lie. Today, consciously "put on" each piece of armor. Speak them aloud: "I wear salvation, I carry faith, I stand in truth." You are equipped for whatever darkness you face.

### Day 4: Putting On Christ Daily

Reading: [Colossians 3:12-17](#)

Devotional:

How do we "put on" Jesus Christ? Through His Word that comes to us in Scripture, baptism, communion, and confession. Every worship service is a dressing room where we remove sin and clothe ourselves in Christ. Paul describes this wardrobe: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness. Above all—love. Because God IS love, when we put on love, we're putting on Christ Himself. This isn't a one-time event but a daily rhythm: take off sin, put on Christ; take off selfishness, put on love; take off pride, put on humility. We mess up constantly, but He loves us constantly. His grace is new every morning. Today, practice this rhythm consciously. When you catch yourself in sin, immediately confess it and "put on" the corresponding virtue Christ offers.

### Day 5: The Advent We're Really Preparing For

Reading: [1 Thessalonians 5:1-11](#)

Devotional:

All our Christmas preparations—trees, lights, gifts—point to something far greater. We're ultimately preparing for Christ's return. The Advent season reminds us that Jesus came once as a baby in Bethlehem, and He will come again in glory. This preparation never truly ends until that day. "Salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed." Every day brings us closer to that glorious reunion. So we stay alert, sober, wearing faith and love as a breastplate and the hope of salvation as a helmet. We encourage one another and build each other up. As you light your Advent candles, remember they symbolize Christ, the Light of the World, who will one day return to banish darkness forever. Live today as one who eagerly awaits that coming. Maranatha—Come, Lord Jesus!