

Advent Prayer Guide

Advent prayers take only a few minutes each night, yet they can become a meaningful time for individuals or families to reflect on Christ's Incarnation and His promised return. This Advent Prayer Guide is offered to help shape your daily reflections throughout the season, using an Advent wreath. A wreath is not essential; candles alone will do. You can participate individually or share the responsibilities of reading Scripture, lighting the candles, and engaging in prayer, allowing everyone to take part.

The Advent Wreath

The circle of the Advent wreath, together with the evergreens that form it, symbolizes God's endless mercy and unfailing love. The four candles around the wreath represent the themes of Advent, with each candle marking one of the four weeks, and the fifth candle at the center representing Christ Himself.

- **The First Candle** – Hope: Also called the Prophet's Candle, it represents the hope for the coming of the Messiah.
- **The Second Candle** – Faith: Known as the Bethlehem Candle, it signifies faith in God's promise, Jesus will be born in Bethlehem.
- **The Third Candle** – Joy: Called the Shepherd's Candle, this rose (pink) candle symbolizes the shepherds' joy at hearing of Jesus' birth.
- **The Fourth Candle** – Peace: Also called the Angel's Candle, it represents the peace Christ brings to the world.
- **The Christ Candle**: Placed in the center of the wreath is the Christ Candle. It symbolizes that Jesus is the Light of the World and is lit on Christmas.

During the first week of Advent, one purple candle is lit each day. In the second week, a second purple candle is added. In the third week, the rose candle joins them, and in the fourth week, all four outer candles shine together. The central Christ Candle is then lit on Christmas.

ADVENT PRAYER GUIDE

The prayer time begins with the candle(s) not yet lit.

Leader: Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Let us pray.
Use the prayer that corresponds to the week from the next page.
The candle, or candles, may now be lit.

O Gracious Light *(An Ancient Prayer also titled Phos hilaron)*

People: O gracious Light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

Scripture Reading
Suggested passages for the day are on the back of this booklet.

After the reading:
Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Peace
Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you.
People: And with your spirit.

The Lord's Prayer
Leader: Let us pray.
All pray the Lord's Prayer.

The Blessing
Leader: The Lord bless us and keep us.
People: Amen.

Leader: The Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious to us.
People: Amen.

Leader: The Lord lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace.

People: Amen.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Put out the candle or candles.

PRAYERS FOR EACH WEEK

First Week of Advent 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 reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

Second Week of Advent Prayer

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

Third Week of Advent Prayer

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

Fourth Week of Advent Prayer

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at His coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for Himself, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT READINGS

Daily Scripture Readings

SUNDAY – Matthew 25:1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their
lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. **2** Five of them were foolish, and
five were wise. **3** For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil
with them, **4** but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. **5** As the
bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. **6** But at
midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet
him.' **7** Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. **8** And the foolish
said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going
out.' **9** But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us
and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' **10** And while
they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready
went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. **11** Afterward
the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' **12** But he
answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' **13** Watch therefore, for
you know neither the day nor the hour.

MONDAY – Isaiah 1:16-18

16 Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil,
17 learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression;
bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.
18 "Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord:
though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

TUESDAY – Isaiah 60:1-3

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
2 For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
3 And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

WEDNESDAY – Psalm 43:3-5

3 Send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling!
4 Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy,
and I will praise you with the lyre,
O God, my God.
5 Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation and my God.

THURSDAY – Isaiah 58:6-9

6 "Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of wickedness,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover him,
and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?
8 Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up speedily;
your righteousness shall go before you;
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
9 Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry, and he will say, 'Here I am.'
If you take away the yoke from your midst,
the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,

FRIDAY – 1 John 2:8-11

8 At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you,
which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away
and the true light is already shining. 9 Whoever says he is in the light
and hates his brother is still in darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother
abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. 11 But
whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and
does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his
eyes.

SATURDAY – 1 John 3:1-2

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. [2] Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is.

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT READINGS

Daily Scripture Readings

SUNDAY – Isaiah 40:1-5

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
[2] Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.
[3] A voice cries:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
[4] Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
[5] And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

MONDAY – Revelation 1:7-8

7 Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. **8** "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

TUESDAY – Matthew 22:41-45

41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, **42** saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." **43** He said to them, "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,

44 "'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet"'?
45 If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?"

WEDNESDAY – Hosea 11:3-4

3 Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk;
I took them up by their arms,
but they did not know that I healed them.
4 I led them with cords of kindness,
with the bands of love,
and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws,
and I bent down to them and fed them.

THURSDAY – Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord!
2 O Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleas for mercy!
3 If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?
4 But with you there is forgiveness,
that you may be feared.
5 I wait for the Lord, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
6 my soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.
7 O Israel, hope in the Lord!
For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.
8 And he will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.

FRIDAY – Micah 6:6-8

6 "With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
7 Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

[8] He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

SATURDAY – Jeremiah 14:8-9

[8] O you hope of Israel,
its savior in time of trouble,
why should you be like a stranger in the land,
like a traveler who turns aside to tarry for a night?
[9] Why should you be like a man confused,
like a mighty warrior who cannot save?
Yet you, O Lord, are in the midst of us,
and we are called by your name;
do not leave us.

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT READINGS

Daily Scripture Readings

SUNDAY – Isaiah 9:6-7

[6] For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
[7] Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

MONDAY – Isaiah 7:10-14

[10] Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: [11] "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." [12] But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." [13] And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God

also? [14] Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

TUESDAY – Isaiah 11:1-6

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
[2] And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
[3] And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
[4] but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
[5] Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
[6] The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.

WEDNESDAY – Isaiah 40:10-11

[10] Behold, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
[11] He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

THURSDAY – Isaiah 52:7

[7] How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

FRIDAY – Jeremiah 33:14-16

14 "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15 In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 16 In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

SATURDAY – Malachi 3:1-2

"Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT READINGS

Daily Scripture Readings

Week four of Advent readings may not always be complete because the length of Advent is variable, depending on what day of the week Christmas falls on.

SUNDAY – John 3:16-21

16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 21 But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."

MONDAY – Luke 1:5-17, 24-25

5 In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of

the Lord. 7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

8 Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, 9 according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. 10 And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. 11 And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. 12 And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. 13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, 15 for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, 17 and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared."

24 After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, 25 "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

TUESDAY – Luke 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

34 And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"
35 And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth

month with her who was called barren. [37] For nothing will be impossible with God." [38] And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

WEDNESDAY – Luke 1:39-56

[39] In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, [40] and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. [41] And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, [42] and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! [43] And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? [44] For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. [45] And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

[46] And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
[47] and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
[48] for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
[49] for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
[50] And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
[51] He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
[52] he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
[53] he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
[54] He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
[55] as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

[56] And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

THURSDAY – Luke 1:57-66

[57] Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. [58] And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. [59] And on the eighth day they came to

circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, [60] but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” [61] And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” [62] And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. [63] And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered. [64] And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. [65] And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, [66] and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

FRIDAY – Luke 1:67-80

[67] And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

[68] “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
[69] and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
[70] as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
[71] that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
[72] to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
[73] the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
[74] that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
[75] in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
[76] And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways
[77] to give knowledge of salvation to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins.

DECEMBER 24 – Matthew 1:18-25

[18] Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. [19] And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. [20] But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy

Spirit. [21] She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." [22] All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

> [23] *"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,*
> *and they shall call his name Immanuel"*
> *(which means, God with us).*

[24] When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, [25] but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Daily Scripture Readings
(provide inside this booklet, color coded ;)

First Week

Sunday	Matthew 25:1-13
Monday	Isaiah 1:16-18
Tuesday	Isaiah 60:1-3
Wednesday	Psalm 43:3-5
Thursday	Isaiah 58:6-9
Friday	1 John 2:8-11
Saturday	1 John 3:1-2

Second Week

Sunday	Isaiah 40:1-5
Monday	Revelation 1:7-8
Tuesday	Matthew 22:41-45
Wednesday	Hosea 11:3-4
Thursday	Psalm 130
Friday	Micah 6:6-8
Saturday	Jeremiah 14:8-9

Third Week

Sunday	Isaiah 9:6-7
Monday	Isaiah 7:10-14
Tuesday	Isaiah 11:1-6
Wednesday	Isaiah 40:10-11
Thursday	Isaiah 52:7
Friday	Jeremiah 33:14-16
Saturday	Malachi 3:1-2

Fourth Week

Sunday	John 3:16-21
Monday	Luke 1:5-17, 24-25
Tuesday	Luke 1:26-38
Wednesday	Luke 1:39-56
Thursday	Luke 1:57-66
Friday	Luke 1:67-80

Dec. 24 **Matthew 1:18-25**