



PRAYER DURING THE DAY FOR DECEMBER 2021

*Text in **bold** may be said by all, if saying it with others. Most of the month is Advent, however the last days are Christmas, and this month's selections reflect this ratio. Alleluia's are for after Advent. Wreath prayers should be prayed with or without a wreath or other symbol.*

O God, make speed to save us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

My soul waits for the Lord, **more than the night watch for the morning.** (*Alleluia.*)

Psalm 130.5a

WEEKLY ADVENT SENTENCE

This may go with daily wreath lighting, or some other weekly symbol of the journey toward the Nativity and the Epiphany. These are different than the ones we shared in our devotional and on Sundays.

One: We light this candle for all God's prophets, confronting injustice and restoring the dream of a world of freedom and peace. **God, as we wait for your promise, give light, give hope.**

Two: We light this candle for all God-bearers, saying 'yes' to God's challenge, accepting the pain and joy of an unknown future. **God, as we wait for your promise, give light, give hope.**

Three: We light this candle for all God's people, struggling to be bearers of hope in a troubled world. **God, as we wait for your promise, give light, give hope**

Four: We light this candle for all God's seekers, preparing the way for change, signs pointing to a new age to come. **God, as we wait for your promise, give light, give hope.**

Christmas We light this candle for the newborn Christ, reawakening hope and faith – the Word embodied for our time. Alleluia! **One God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we receive your promise, for you are light, you are hope.**

PRAISE

Sing or listen to a hymn, song, poem, a carol, freeform praise or

Savior eternal,
life of the world unfailing,
light everlasting
and our true redemption.
Taking our humanity
in your loving freedom,
you rescued our lost earth
and filled the world with joy.

By your first advent justify us,
by your second, set us free:
that when the great light dawns
and you come as judge of all,
we may be robed in immortality
and ready, Lord, to follow
in your footsteps blest, wherever they may lead.

Salus Aeterna

THE WORD OF GOD

Read the whole selection or a portion.

Each psalm or group of psalms may end with

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen. (Alleluia)

| <i>Day</i> | <i>Week 1</i> | <i>Week 2</i> |
|------------|---------------|---------------|
| Monday | 25.1-7 | 80.1-13 |
| Tuesday | 25.8-15 | 80.14-19 |
| Wednesday | 25.16-22 | 82 |
| Thursday | 54 | 85 |
| Friday | 70 | 87 |
| Saturday | 75 | 150 |

READINGS

Monday

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. 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; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Malachi 3.1-4

Tuesday

Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God. The person who doesn't love does not know God, because God is love. This is how the love of God is revealed to us: God has sent his only Son into the world so that we can live through him. This is love: it is not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son as the sacrifice that deals with our sins.

1 Letter of John 4.7-10

Wednesday

When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom."

Luke 1.26-33

Thursday

Comfort, comfort my people! says your God. Speak compassionately to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her compulsory service has ended, that her penalty has been paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins! A voice is crying out: "Clear the Lord's way in the desert! Make a level highway in the wilderness for our God! Every valley will be raised up, and every mountain and hill will be flattened. Uneven ground will become level, and rough terrain a valley plain. The Lord's glory will appear, and all humanity will see it together; the Lord's mouth has commanded it."

Isaiah 40.1-5

Friday

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

Hebrews 1.1-3a

Saturday

The true light that shines on all people was coming into the world. The light was in the world, and the world came into being through the light, but the world didn't recognize the light. The light came to his own people, and his own people didn't welcome him. But those who did welcome him, those who believed in his name, he authorized to become God's children, born not from blood nor from human desire or passion, but born from God. The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John 1.9-14

RESPONSE

Silence, study, reading, or song. Then these words:

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, **for they will be filled.**

Matthew 5.6

PRAYERS

Let your prayers be guided by these concerns, and may your heart be led to even more:

Let us pray to God, who is our refuge and stronghold.

For the health and well-being of the world, that all who are fearful and anxious may be at peace and free from worry: God, hear us, **God, graciously hear us.**

For the isolated and housebound, that we may be alert to their needs, and care for them in their vulnerability: God, hear us, **God, graciously hear us.**

For our homes and families, our schools and young people, and all in any kind of need or distress: God, hear us, **God, graciously hear us.**

For a blessing on our local community, that our neighborhoods may be places of trust and friendship, where all are known and cared for: God, hear us, **God, graciously hear us.**

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray, to the mercy and protection of God. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

One (or more) of the following prayers are said to collect the intentions

Keep us, O God, while we tarry on this earth, in a serious seeking after you, and in an affectionate walking with you, every day of our lives; that when you come, we may be found not hiding our talent, nor serving the flesh, nor yet asleep with our lamp unfurnished, but waiting and longing for our God, our glorious God for ever. (*Alleluia,*) **Amen.**

God Jesus Christ, you taught us to love our neighbor, and to care for those in need as if we were caring for you. In this time of anxiety, give us strength to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick, and to assure the isolated of our love, and your love, for your name's sake. *(Alleluia,)* **Amen.**

God of abundant mercy, you have given us grace to pray with one heart and one voice, even though our hearts are weary and our voices may tremble. Comfort, comfort, O Lord, speak to us of the peace that awaits us, bring forth the balm of healing for our wounded souls. We ask all this, trusting in the promise you have made to hear the prayers of your beloved children in the Name of your Holy Child, Jesus. *(Alleluia,)* **Amen.**

Come O Christ, come to our divided world; come to our fragmented lives; come to heal and save. In you our life is one again, and all things come together: each connected to the other, each reflected in the other, ourselves and all things living: heaven and earth, time and space, the whole created universe, in you. Christ of the cosmos, living Word, come to heal and save. *(Alleluia,)* **Amen.**

OTHER COLLECTS AND PRAYERS *(if desired)*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Said in whatever language is closest to your heart

THE CONCLUSION

My soul waits for the Lord, **more than the night watch for the morning.** (Alleluia!)

This follows the outline of Prayer During the Day from CoE, readings for Advent and Christmas; working from both the trial and published versions. Advent Wreath prayers from Wild Goose Publications. Readings are from the CEB or NRSV translations of the Bible. Prayers adapted from the CoE Prayers for Advent and Covidtide and elsewhere. Created by Christ Church, Ridley Park in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania