



DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

ADVENT | CHRISTMAS

NOV 2025 - JAN 2026

INTRODUCTION

In the pages to follow, you will find candle liturgies, devotional reflections, and daily readings for the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Our prayer is that these materials would help you to more deeply experience the beauty of these seasons. We hope you will engage these pages prayerfully, with an attunement to the Lord's grace, mercy, and glory. For more resources to engage the seasons and to learn more about the Christian liturgical calendar, please visit the Grace Mosaic blog on our website, gracemosaic.org/blog, or scan the QR Code below.

The Grace Mosaic Staff

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Scan here for more seasonal resources on the
Grace Mosaic blog:



ADVENT | NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 24, 2025

Advent, from the Latin *adventus*, means “coming” or “visitation.” As followers of Jesus Christ, we live in between two visitations: the first coming of the Son of God in Bethlehem and his long-awaited second coming. We are waiting for the “day of the Lord,” when creation will be healed, the dead will be raised, and all of us together will be ushered into the life of the world to come. This waiting frames our experience in this preparatory, watchful, somber, and joyful season before the luminous celebration of Christmas.

CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY | DECEMBER 25, 2025 - JANUARY 6, 2026

In both the Eastern and Western Church, the season of Christmas (also known as Christmastide) begins on December 25 and stretches twelve days until the Epiphany of our Lord on January 6. Indeed, “The Twelve Days of Christmas” is not just a song about “a partridge in a pear tree” but is an ancient Christian tradition of feasting, generosity, and merriment that celebrates the unparalleled gift of God in the incarnation of Jesus, the coming of the True Light into our world. The practice of celebrating the birth of Christ started sporadically in the ancient churches, but the first mention of it being specifically celebrated on the twenty-fifth of December comes from 336 CE in Rome.

Epiphany, a word that means “manifestation,” is, at its heart, a day and season that celebrates the revelation of Jesus to the world, the radiant splendor of the “light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Cor. 4:6). It is believed that this celebration began early in the third century in Alexandria, Egypt. On Epiphany, the church remembers the visit of the Magi from the East to come and worship the Christ child, a story that signifies and fulfills the manifestation of Jesus to the Gentiles and the outbreking of the kingdom of God to all nations. As we sketch out both the life of Christ and the life of the church throughout the Christian year, Christmas and Epiphany help us to dwell upon the incarnation, early life, and ministry of Jesus. We learn with each encounter the depth and beauty of who Jesus is before we move toward the cross and the crown.

CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGIES

It is a beautiful tradition of Western Christianity to keep an Advent wreath on the center of the table and light the candles consecutively on the Sundays of Advent (the pink is for the third Sunday of Advent). In the middle of the wreath sits the Christ Candle, which is lit during the 12 days of Christmas all the way up until Epiphany on January 6th.



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THEME: Hope

SCRIPTURE

Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD! (Psalm 27:14)

PRAYER

Prepare the way of the LORD.

We light this candle in hope,
waiting for our coming Savior, Jesus,
who will come again to make all things new.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THEME: Peace

SCRIPTURE

Because of the tender mercy of our God, the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.
(from the *Benedictus*, Luke 1:78-79)

PRAYER

Prepare the way of the LORD.

We light this candle in peace,
the peace that Jesus, our Savior, gives to the world.
He has reconciled us to the Father and to one another.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT*

THEME: Joy

*Gaudete Sunday means “rejoice” in Latin. The candle color for this Sunday is pink.

SCRIPTURE

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...” (from the *Magnificat*, Luke 1:46-47)

PRAYER

Prepare the way of the LORD.
We light this candle in joy,
the joy that we have in Jesus,
our Messiah and greatest treasure.
He loves us with an everlasting love.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THEME: Love

SCRIPTURE

In this, the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (1 John 4:9-10)

PRAYER

Prepare the way of the LORD.
We light this candle in love,
and by the love of Christ
who died to make enemies his friends.
Let our lives be a witness to this.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

CHRISTMAS DAY & the 12 days of Christmas*

THEME: Incarnation

*All the candles in the wreath can be lit daily to celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, repeating the Christmas prayer above.

SCRIPTURE

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

PRAYER

We light this candle because Jesus, the light of the world, was born among us!

The light of his glory will shine forever.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

THE EPIPHANY

THEME: Manifestation

SCRIPTURE

My eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.

(from the *Nunc Dimittis*, Luke 2:30–32)

PRAYER

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

We light this candle because Jesus, the light of the world, has revealed himself to all nations and people

and has made them a kingdom and priests to our God.

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

HOPE

I will wait for the LORD, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in him. (Isaiah 8:17)

As Isaiah prophesies of the Israelites' impending captivity under the Assyrians, he employs the image of God hiding His face from His chosen people to describe the judgment he foresees. It's a dark statement; God removing his presence is His ultimate act of condemnation, the epitome of desolation. And yet, Isaiah envelops his lament with two bold declarations: "I will wait for the LORD... I will hope in him."

It is natural to feel hope in God's provision and goodness when life is light and things are going our way. When the waters we're swimming in feel calm, predictable, or controllable. But what about when the darkness encroaches, as it always does? When the horrors of the world erode our cheerfulness? When our relationships fracture, our bodies betray us with debilitating chronic pain, cherished ones perish far too soon, addictions strangle us until we feel beyond repair? What are we to do when it feels like God has hidden His face from us in our time of desperate need?

Advent's invitation: *Look up.*

Hope isn't just a feeling, but a practice—one that removes our gaze from our circumstances and focuses it on our Father. True hope isn't toxic positivity or naïve optimism that "things will work out." Rather, it is the act of resisting the real, present darkness around us with the persistent expectation that God can be trusted, because He is who He says He is, and He will do what He has promised. It is believing in the future good God is orchestrating, even as we slog through present mire.

The waters I'm swimming in have been turbulent lately—mostly, with chronic health issues flooding many of my days with staggering pain. I feel like I'm crawling towards Advent this year. Are you? Some days, the hard has felt more palpable than the good. Do you relate? If so, lean in; let this season be infused with a reminder of Advent's (and life's!) tension between the already and not yet; between darkness and light, waiting and fulfillment, despair and hope.

Whatever you're navigating today, this week, this year, know that, in Christ, God does not hide His face from you. He sees you. He weeps with you. He lavishes delight upon you. The season of Advent is a gift, as is hope—a gift that liberates us from the bondage of the whims of circumstance in a bleeding world, and lifts our eyes to gaze upon the face of God, our Father, in eager expectation. Practice it with me. He will do it!

- Jahanna Schwab

ADVENT DAILY READINGS - WEEK 1

Sunday, November 30

PS. 25

JER. 33:14-16

1 THESS. 3:9-13 & LUKE 21:25-36

Monday, December 1

PS. 1

GEN. 1:1-26

REV. 21:1-5

Tuesday, December 2

PS. 2

GEN. 1:27-2:3

COL. 3:1-17

Wednesday, December 3

PS. 3

GEN. 3:1-8

REV. 12:1-11

Thursday, December 4

PS. 4

GEN. 3:9-24

JOHN 10:7-18

Friday, December 5

PS. 5

GEN. 4:1-16

HEB. 12:22-29

Saturday, December 6

PS. 6

GEN. 11:27-12:9

GAL. 3:8-14

PEACE

For to us a child is born... and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Is. 9:6)

We all long for peace, both personally and corporately, because we are profoundly not at peace. Each one of us, whether we want to recognize it or not, is at war with God, with others, and with our own selves because of our sin and shame. Unfortunately for us, we also often settle for a false peace in our lives. Rather than getting to the root of our problems, like pride, greed, or fear, we slap on temporary fixes... or we fight harder, thinking our “wins” will bring peace... or we ignore the problems within us and without. Like the prophets, priests, and leaders of Israel in the time of Jeremiah, we often speak, “‘Peace, peace,’ when there is no peace” (Jer. 6:14; 8:11). This is reflective both of what is happening in the world around us and of what is happening in our own hearts.

But Jesus—the Prince of Peace—offers and is bringing about true peace.

The sort of peace that the Prince of Peace brings about does not come through more violence or oppressive power. It does not come about through ignoring the problem of the world’s sins and injustices, nor our own sins and injustices. And it does not come about through the well-intentioned yet insufficient fixes we offer, which perpetuate and prolong the absence of peace.

Instead, this is what the Prince of Peace has done: He entered into our war and allowed Himself to be the sacrificial Lamb that reconciled all parties and brought us true and enduring peace. The Prince of Peace has definitively brought peace between God, ourselves, and others through answering the problem of our sin and shame (justification); He is transforming us into people of peace by His Spirit of Peace (sanctification); and He will one day establish complete individual and cosmic peace when He comes again to finally redeem all things from their bondage to sin and shame (glorification). In those days, this is what is foretold about us:

They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

*O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.
(Is. 2:4-5)*

- Josh Putrasahan

ADVENT DAILY READINGS - WEEK 2

Sunday, December 7

LUKE 1:68-69

MAL. 3:1-4

PHIL. 1:3-11 & LUKE 3:1-6

Monday, December 8

PS. 7

GEN. 49:1, 8-12

REV. 5:1-10

Tuesday, December 9

PS. 8

EXOD. 1:1-14; 2:23-25

LUKE 4:16-21

Wednesday, December 10

PS. 9

EXOD. 14:10-14

2 COR. 1:7-10

Thursday, December 11

PS. 10

EXOD. 40:33-38

REV 21:22-22:5

Friday, December 12

PS. 11

LEV. 16:29-34

HEB. 9:23-28

Saturday, December 13

PS. 12

DEUT. 18:9-15

HEB 1:1-6

JOY

*He brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing.
(Psalm 105:43)*

Joy is an emotion we often associate with life's sweetest moments—reuniting with a loved one, welcoming a new life, or celebrating a marriage. In these moments, we overflow with excitement and happiness.

But as the moments fade, so can joy. When our joy depends on circumstances, it rises and falls as those circumstances change. Scripture also speaks of joy, but conveys it as something more than a feeling or a mood. Biblical joy is rooted in something that remains firm—even as life shifts around us.

From the beginning, the life of God's people is filled with valleys and peaks. Adam and Eve enjoy God and His creation, yet no less than a chapter later, they face their first valley as they are banished from the garden. This pattern runs throughout Scripture.

However, the astonishing truth is this: God's people display a joy that perseveres through the valleys. The major difference is that biblical joy does not find its foundation in what is happening, but rather in what will happen.

The Psalmist illustrates this in Psalm 105:42-43:

*“For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham, his servant.
So he brought his people out with joy, his chosen ones with singing.”*

This doesn't mean there isn't room for lament in the valleys. Valleys are real, and Scripture never denies their weight. But, even in the valleys, God's people can have joy because the Lord is faithful to fulfill His promises.

In other words, the valleys don't have the final say. God's promises do.

Joy in the scriptures is not some fleeting feeling based on how things are going; it is much deeper. It is a choice to rejoice in the promises of God to His people, looking to the future and eagerly anticipating His promises to come to pass.

So, as we are in this time of Advent, may we remember to place our joy in the Savior who has come and will come again. When our joy is rooted in Him, it remains firm in the promises of God.

ADVENT DAILY READINGS - WEEK 3

Sunday, December 14

ISA. 12:2-6

ZEPH. 3:14-20

PHIL. 4:4-7 & LUKE 3:7-18

Monday, December 15

PS. 13

JUDG. 2:8-12

ISA. 11:1-10

Tuesday, December 16

PS. 14

2 SAM. 7:1-13

REV. 22:12-2

Wednesday, December 17

PS. 15

1 KINGS 11:6-13

1 COR. 10:1-14

Thursday, December 18

PS. 16

2 KINGS 17:18-23; 25:8-11

MATT. 1:1-23

Friday, December 19

PS. 17

HAB. 1:1-14

ROM. 8:18-25

Saturday, December 20

PS. 18

ISA. 35:3-10

PHIL. 4:4-9

LOVE

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need, but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. (1 John 3:16-18)

What do we mean by love? And *love what*, or rather, *love who*? Well, as the good book says, Love God, Love Your Neighbor, Love Your Enemy. The practices of service and generosity, good works, and almsgiving are not ones natural to our world, where only the strong and proud and ruthless survive.

However, in the Lord's common grace extended to all, even many unbelievers take the end of the year as a time to remember that our lives are not just about us, and that we don't inhabit this world alone. In a unique way, now more than any other time of year, many recognize that there is value and even virtue in being merciful and generous to those around you, even strangers, even those you don't like.

As Christians, we especially have an obligation to the poor (both the materially poor and poor in spirit), and another high command to love our neighbors, a call given to us by Christ in his Word. We have this obligation because Christ first loved us, even while we were impoverished, even while we were enemies of Christ and had no righteousness to show for ourselves. It is because of God's love, which he "poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit," that we are empowered to now go out in *responsive love* for God, *gracious love* for our neighbors, and *humble love* for our enemies. It is in the moments where we seek to be Christ's love for others that we are invited to know God at work amongst those people and situations we would have naturally discounted and overlooked.

This Advent, take stock of all that you are and all that you possess (perhaps through the practice of examen or journaling). As you consider these things, remember Christ's incarnation. Remember that he is coming again in power. Everything you are, everything you own, is actually not yours, but his, for "You are not your own, but were bought with a price" (1 Cor 6:19-20)—and we are now purposed for the new creation, his Second Coming. How might he use you for his good works this Advent and for the inbreaking of his kingdom to our world now?

- Haley Combs

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS DAILY READINGS

Sunday, December 21

PS. 80

MIC. 5:2-5a

HEB. 10:5-10 & LUKE 1:39-55

Monday, December 22

PS. 19

ISA. 40:1-5

MATT. 3:1-6

Tuesday, December 23

PS. 20

ISA. 42:1-16

ROM. 13:11-14

Wednesday, December 24

PS. 21

MAL. 4:1-6

LUKE 1:1-25

Thursday, December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY

PS. 97

ISA. 62:6-12

JOHN 1:1-1, TITUS 3:4-7

Friday, December 26

PS. 98

ISA. 52:7-10

HEB. 1:1-4

Saturday, December 27

PS. 99

ISA. 59

COL. 1:9-20

WAITING IN HOPE

As we approach Christmas, countless children are waiting for Christmas day. They're waiting to see if they're going to get what they've hoped for under the Christmas tree. But there's a waiting in hope that characterizes Advent and precedes Christmas. And this hope is much firmer than a wish for a gift you and I desire to receive on December 25.

Jeremiah 33:10-15 helps us to wait in the hope of joy, abundance, and righteousness in Jesus Christ.

The most difficult times to talk about hope are when the days are darkest. Those are, of course, the times that hope is most necessary. If the hope of joy is a struggle for you right now, then you can identify with the prophet Jeremiah and those to whom he was writing. Jeremiah is in jail. The Babylonians have come to destroy Judah and Jerusalem. The whole land would lay in ruins. In a time of terror, despair, depression, hopelessness the Lord promises joy in verses 10-11. He says that the sound of unrestrained celebration will be heard again! How can this be? Here's what Jeremiah is saying to them from prison. You might not be good, but God is good. You might not be faithful, but God is faithful. The promise of restoration and joy is based on the goodness of God.

In vv. 10-11 God promises to change desolation into joy. In vv. 12-13 he promises to change desolation into abundance. All over the desolate land the flocks will again pass under the hand of the shepherd as he numbers them to make sure that none are missing." Then he says in v. 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." The Advent hope of abundance has already been seen. It's no coincidence that the Gospel of Luke tells us that when Mary gave birth to Jesus and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, that in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night (Luke 2:8).

The return of abundance to the land set the conditions for us to receive the abundance of life in Jesus Christ. It's a promise of abundant life that begins right now for everyone who belongs to Jesus Christ. What this means is that if you are a Christian, God has promised an abundance of grace, an abundance of joy, a surplus of peace, an overflowing of mercy in Christ. That is a present possession for the Christian. Even if there are no gifts under the tree, even if none of the people out shopping on Black Friday are thinking about you, there is real abundance for every Christian.

- Rev. Dr. Irwyn Ince

CHRISTMAS DAILY READINGS

Sunday, December 28

PS. 148

1 SAM. 2:18-20, 26

LUKE 2:41-52, COL. 3:12-17

Monday, December 29

PS. 100

ISA. 55

PHIL. 2:1-13

Tuesday, December 30

PS. 124

JER. 31:15-17

MATT 2:13-23

Wednesday, December 31

PS. 111

ISA. 12

JAMES 3:13-18

Thursday, January 1

PS. 8

ECC. 3:1-13

JAMES 4:11-17

Friday, January 2

PS. 99

PROV. 22:1-9

LUKE 6:27-31

Saturday, January 3

PS. 2

JOSH. 2:2-9

EPH. 6:10-20

VISIO DIVINA



The Coming of the Light

Kim Woong, before 1975

Private collection, New York

Published in *Christian Art in Asia* by Masao Takenaka

This painting by South Korean artist Kim Woong shows a woman in a white blouse and green skirt sitting barefoot on the ground. She holds a lit candle in her left hand, which casts a heart-shaped glow on her face, and with her right arm she hugs her body for warmth.

Advent is a time of keeping vigil, of waiting eagerly in the darkness for the coming of the Light. In what particular dark areas of your own life do you long for God's light to shine? What about in your city? And globally? Christ has come and is always coming into places of need; wherever you're feeling the shadows of sin and/or suffering most keenly, pray for his presence there.

- Victoria Jones



Seasonal Icons by Lauren Little, Atlas Minor Design Studio