



## PRAYER DURING THE DAY FOR DECEMBER 2020

*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. Feel free to add Alleluia's 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.**

*Psalm 130.5a*

### ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

*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

*A hymn, song, poem, 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.**

<i>Day</i>	<i>Week 1</i>	<i>Week 2</i>
Monday	82	85
Tuesday	13	87
Wednesday	14	97
Thursday	54	127
Friday	70	130
Saturday	75	150

## READINGS

### *Monday*

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

*Isaiah 11. 1-4*

### *Tuesday*

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

*Romans 13.11-14*

### *Wednesday*

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."' John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

*Mark 1.1-5*

### *Thursday*

As for you, Bethlehem of Ephrathah, though you are the least significant of Judah's forces, one who is to be a ruler in Israel on my behalf will come out from you. His origin is from remote times, from ancient days. Therefore, he will give them up until the time when she who is in labor gives birth. The rest of his kin will return to the people of Israel. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

They will dwell secure, because he will surely become great throughout the earth; he will become one of peace.

*Micah 5.2-5a*

*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*

Jesus replied, "The most important one is Israel, listen! Our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, You will love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these."

The shepherds went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Luke 2.16-20*

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. **Amen.**

Father of lights, from whom comes every good and perfect gift: keep us in the light of Christ, to shine in your world, that all may believe in you, through Jesus Christ our God. **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. **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. **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. **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.**

*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*