

**Koinonia  
Advent  
2021**



# **HEAVEN & NATURE SING**

We mark time in our lives in a variety of ways—officially by a clock and calendar, but we all have informal ways too. The rhythm of the “school year” often governs families more than the calendar year. Our morning routine may be marked by rush hour. Evenings may be timed by our favorite show on TV. The Church has those rhythms too. Our year begins in November with the start of Advent, as we pray for Jesus’ coming. Our weeks are marked by worship on Sunday. Our days are marked in prayer.

Daily prayer is an ancient practice of tuning our lives to divine movement. Bracketing daily activity with morning and evening prayer helps to remind us that God is present with us throughout our day. Like a beautiful frame enhances the painting it contains, prayer is the frame that brings our lives into focus.

During Advent you are invited to use the prayers in this book along with the daily devotional book to engage in the practice of daily prayer. You may do this by yourself or choose to join us on Facebook. Daily prayer is offered live on the Koinonia Facebook page:

- ◆ Morning Prayer, 9:00 AM
- ◆ Evening Prayer, 7:00 PM

You may also use the prayers at a time that fits into your schedule, they will be available on each Church’s Facebook page for you to use any time. If you choose to only do prayer once each day, morning prayer will include the suggested daily scriptures, while evening prayer will include a reflection on the day’s scripture.

In addition, we will be gathering in person for Wednesday evening prayer with music and advent carols. We will take turns gathering at the three church building at 7:00 PM. The final Wednesday we will have a special virtual prayer from the Schneider-Thomas barn. Please see the Calendar of Events below for details.

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED,  
ALL EVENT ARE ON THE  
KOINONIA LUTHERAN CO-OP FACEBOOK PAGE**

- November 28<sup>th</sup> - December 4<sup>th</sup>, Week One  
Morning Prayer @ 9:00 AM  
Evening Prayer @ 7:00 PM
  - Mid-Week Prayer, Wednesday, Dec 1, 7:00 PM @ Peace
- December 5<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> - Week Two  
Morning Prayer @ 9:00 AM  
Evening Prayer @ 7:00 PM
  - Mid-week Prayer, Wednesday, Dec 8, 7:00 PM @ Zion
- December 12<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>, Week Three  
Morning Prayer @ 9:00 AM  
Evening Prayer @ 7:00 PM
  - Mid-week Prayer, Wednesday, Dec 15, 7:00 PM @ Hope
  - December 18<sup>th</sup>, Virtual Christmas program - 7:30 PM. Join us on Facebook as folks from all three congregations share music, stories, and fun.
- December 19<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>, Week Four Prayer  
Morning Prayer @ 9:00 AM  
Evening Prayer @ 7:00 PM
  - Mid-week Advent Prayer, on Facebook, Wednesday, 7:00 PM

- December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve Worship will be offered in person at each congregation:
  - Hope - 5:00 PM
  - Zion - 7:00 PM
  - Peace - 7:00 PM
- December 24<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Eve Online worship, 11:00 PM
- December 25<sup>th</sup> - January 6<sup>th</sup>, Days of Christmas
  - Morning Prayer @ 9:00 AM
  - Evening Prayer @ 7:00 PM
  - December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day Worship at Peace, 10:00 AM
  - *January 5<sup>th</sup> - Epiphany House Blessing, 7:00 PM*

# PRAYERS FOR WEEK ONE

November 28<sup>th</sup> - December 4<sup>th</sup>

Luke 1:1-22

**T**he Christmas story as we usually think of it is contained mostly in the Gospel of Luke. Each day we will read a couple of verses of the stories leading up to the familiar manger scene. As we begin, we read Luke's introduction and reason for writing the Gospel and encounter Elizabeth and Zechariah, an older couple who have never had children.

The beginnings of the book, and the beginnings for Zechariah and Elizabeth invite us to reflect this week on the beginnings in our life. What new beginnings do you long for from God? How is God beginning something new in your life?



## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

*You may choose to light the candles of your Advent wreath throughout the week. It is especially appropriate to light them during meals and times of prayer. The provided prayer is especially appropriate at meal time.*

*Light one candle this week*

Restore us, O God;

**Let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Blessed are you, O God. Wake us up so that we are ready to greet

our Lord Jesus when he comes, and prepare us to welcome him into our hearts and homes.

**Amen.**



## MORNING PRAYER

*Light one candle on your Advent wreath.*

O Lord, you are our Father;

**We are the the clay, and you are our potter;**

We are all the work of your hand. *Isaiah 64:1*

or

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given to you in Christ Jesus.**

*1 Corinthians 1:3-4*

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

## ***Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19***

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!

**Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them

tears to drink in full measure. You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

**Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself. Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

**Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

## Readings

Sunday	✧	Luke 1:1-4
Monday	✧	Luke 1:5-7
Tuesday	✧	Luke 1:8-11
Wednesday	✧	Luke 1:12-15
Thursday	✧	Luke 1:16-17
Friday	✧	Luke 1:18-20
Saturday	✧	Luke 1:21-22

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,

**but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.**

## **Canticle - Revelation 15:3-4**

O ruler of the universe, Lord God, great deeds are they that you have done,

**surpassing human understanding.**

Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth,

**O King of all the ages.**

Who can fail to do you homage, Lord, and sing the praises of your Name?

**For you only are the Holy One.**



All nations will draw near and fall down before you,  
**because your just and holy works have been revealed.**

## **Prayers**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer.

That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That God may establish among the nations divine righteousness, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize him in our homes, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen, including those we name before you now . . .

let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

That, with all the saints in light, including the Apostle Andrew (Nov 30), Francis Xavier (Dec 3), and John of Damascus (Dec 4) we may shine forth as lights for the world, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

We commend ourselves and all for whom we pray to the mercy and protection of our heavenly Father:

**To you, O Lord.**

Almighty God, as your blessed Son Jesus Christ first came to seek and to save the lost; so may he come again to find in us the completion of his redeeming work; for he is now alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

*Additional prayers may follow*

*Lord's Prayer*

Lord Jesus Christ, for you we watch and wait. Guide us through both pain and joy that all we do today may be in you. **Amen.**

The God to whom we pray **enfold us in love.**

The Christ through whom we pray **lift us up.**

The Spirit in whom we pray **wing our prayers to God.**

**Amen.**



## **EVENING PRAYER**

*Light one candle on your Advent wreath.*

Peace be with you

**And also with you**

The Spirit and the Church cry out:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

All those who await his appearance pray:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

The whole creation pleads:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,  
**so that the mountains would quake at your presence**

Isaiah 64:1

## **Thanksgiving for light**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into being,

**and you set light in the sky to govern night and day.**

In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night

**you led your people into freedom.**

Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ:

**may your Word be a lamp to our feet**

**and a light to our path;**

for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation,

**and with all your creatures we give you glory,**

through your Son Jesus Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Reflection or Scripture reading**

## **Canticle - Magnificat, Luke 1:46-55**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me bless'd:

**you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.**

You have mercy on those who fear you,

**from generation to generation.**

*You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,*

**casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

*You have filled the hungry with good things*

**and sent the rich away empty.**

*You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,*

**to remember the promise of mercy,  
the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.**

## **Prayers**

God the Father, you desired neither sacrifices nor offerings, but you sent us your Beloved to reconcile all things in heaven and on the earth through him, making peace by the blood of his Cross:

**Glory to God who comes!**

God the Son, Savior of the world, you have shared our humanity, you have been like us in all things but sin:

**Glory to God who comes!**

God the Holy Spirit, you descended on Christ in whom lives the fulness of the godhead:

## **Glory to God who comes!**

O Christ, may your incarnation and your birth make us love our human condition:

## **Glory to God who comes!**

May your perfect knowledge of the Scriptures strengthen us in the Word of Life:

## **Glory to God who comes!**

May your faithfulness to your work make us each faithful in our vocation:

## **Glory to God who comes!**

May your hidden life help us to live humbly:

## **Glory to God who comes!**

### *Lord's Prayer*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away darkness and put on your light, as we await the time of your advent. In your mercy, grant us this night, a safe lodging, holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Guide us waking, O Lord,  
**and guard us sleeping;**  
that awake we may watch with Christ  
**and asleep we may rest in peace. Amen.**



# PRAYERS FOR WEEK TWO

December 5<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>  
Luke 1:24-41

**A**fter hearing about the promise to Elizabeth and Zechariah, we hear of the good news given to a young woman named Mary. Both announcements are surprising. Elizabeth is beyond childbearing years, yet God promises her a child. Mary is not yet married, but God promises her a child too. In both cases, we are reminded that God works through surprising and unexpected ways that challenge us.

The annunciation to Mary invites us to consider how God is working in unexpected ways today and using unexpected people. Those dismissed by society as unqualified, undesirable, or unworthy are often the folks God works through the most.



## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

*You may choose to light the candles of your Advent wreath throughout the week. It is especially appropriate to light them during meals and times of prayer. The provided prayer is especially appropriate at meal time.*

*Light two candles this week.*

A voice cries out:

**In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord.**

Blessed are you, O God. Help us to hear John the Baptist calling us to prepare the Lord's way. Show us how to welcome others as Christ has welcomed us.

**Amen.**



## MORNING PRAYER

*Light two candle on your Advent wreath.*

A voice cries out:

**In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord.**

Make straight in the desert

**A highway for our God.** Isaiah 40:1-2

*or*

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God:  
**"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'. Mark 1:1-3

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

***Psalm 85:1-2, 8-1***

LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.**

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people,

**to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.**

Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

**Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.**

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

**The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.**

Righteousness will go before him,

**and will make a path for his steps.**

## Readings

Sunday ✧ Luke 1:24-25

Monday ✧ Luke 1:26-29

Tuesday ✧ Luke 1:30-31

Wednesday ✧ Luke 1:32-33

Thursday ✧ Luke 1:34-37

Friday ✧ Luke 1:38

Saturday ✧ Luke 1:39-41

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,

**but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.**

## Canticle Song of the Wilderness, Isaiah 35



The wilderness and the dry land shall rejoice, the desert shall blossom and burst into song.

**They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.**

Strengthen the weary hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

**Say to the anxious, 'Be strong, fear not, your God is coming with judgement, coming with judgement to save you.'**

Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

**Then shall the lame leap like a hart, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.**

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

**The ransomed of the Lord shall return with singing, with everlasting joy upon their heads.**

Joy and gladness shall be their's, and sorrow and singing shall flee away. Prayers

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid, we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and judge. Help us to live in the light of your coming and give us a longing for your kingdom. Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your world as King of the nations. Before you rulers will stand in silence. Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to the suffering as Savior and comforter. Break into our lives, where we struggle with sickness and distress, and set us free to serve you for ever. Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls. Give us with all the faithful departed a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory. Lift us up to meet you, that with Nicholas (Dec 6), Ambrose (Dec 7) and all your saints and angels we may live and reign with you in your new creation. Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Additional prayers may follow*

*Lord's Prayer*

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay; give new courage to your people, who trust in your love. By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom on earth as in heaven, where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

We wait for your loving-kindness, O God,

**in our lives and in our homes.**

According with God's promise,

**may we live this day in peace and holiness.** 2 Peter 3:13-14



## **EVENING PRAYER**

*Light two candle on your Advent wreath.*

As we hear the words of the baptizer who calls us to repentance, let us confess our sin and open our lives to God's healing.

## *Silence for reflection*

Holy and gracious God,

**I confess that I have sinned against you this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me, that I may rest in peace.**

By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, in whom we are forgiven. We rest now in the peace of Christ and rise in the morning to serve.

## **Thanksgiving for light**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into being,

**and you set light in the sky to govern night and day.**

In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night

**you led your people into freedom.**

Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ:

**may your Word be a lamp to our feet**

**and a light to our path;**

for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation,

**and with all your creatures we give you glory,**

through your Son Jesus Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Reflection or Scripture reading**

## **Canticle - the Magnificat, Luke 1:46-55**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me bless'd:

**you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.**

You have mercy on those who fear you,  
**from generation to generation.**

*You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,*  
**casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

*You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.*

*You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,*  
**to remember the promise of mercy,  
the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.**

## **Prayers**

God Almighty, we bless you for calling us to know you, to love and to serve you in spite of all we do wrong.

**Maranatha, the Lord is coming!**

You have sent your beloved Son, your perfect image and the reflection of your glory; for our salvation you have revealed him in our humanity, intending him to be like us in all things but sin.

**Maranatha, the Lord is coming!**

In him you enlighten our ignorance by the light of the Gospel; you proclaim your Kingdom for us; you wash away our offenses and you heal our infirmities.

**Maranatha, the Lord is coming!**

O God, you love all your creatures; keep us in the grace of Christ and the ways of your goodness; may we peacefully await the day when he returns in his glory.

**Maranatha, the Lord is coming!**

Grant us your peace; may we share it one with another in brotherly love and offer you our spiritual worship, consecrating our lives to your praise and to the service of our neighbors.

**Maranatha, the Lord is coming!**

*Lord's Prayer*

God of mercy and grace, grant us strength to come before you with contrite hearts and repentant spirits, relying on your abundant love that we may rest in your peace.

**Amen.**

Guide us waking, O Lord,  
**and guard us sleeping;**  
that awake we may watch with Christ  
**and asleep we may rest in peace. Amen.**



# PRAYERS FOR WEEK THREE

December 12<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>

## Luke 1:41-71

**O** The story of Jesus' birth, according to Luke's telling, is a story about strong women. Elizabeth and Mary are forefront in the story and it centers around their experience. In the readings for this week we read about their shared encounter and the joy that it brings both of them.

Most familiar in this story is the song which Mary sings, the Magnificat. The song contains both great joy and awe at what God is doing. The importance of this song can be seen in the fact that it is a daily part of evening prayer. A careful reading of this song helps us understand Jesus' purpose in coming to earth and challenges us to see how we are called to be a part of God's plan to transform the world. As you read it, you may wish to consider the ways that God is calling you to be part of the great reversal that Jesus is enacting.



## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

*You may choose to light the candles of your Advent wreath throughout the week. It is especially appropriate to light them during meals and times of prayer. The provided prayer is especially appropriate at meal time.*

*Light three candles this week.*

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
**to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, to comfort all who mourn.**  
Blessed are you, O God. You have done great things for us, and we rejoice in you! Send us with the good news of your love to all who are sad or lonely.  
**Amen.**



## MORNING PRAYER

*Light three candle on your Advent wreath.*

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
**to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, to comfort all who mourn.**

Isaiah 61:1-2

*or*

Rejoice always,  
**Pray without ceasing,**  
give thanks in all circumstances;  
**for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for us.** *1 Thes 5:16-18*

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

## Psalm 126

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

**Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**

The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

**Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.**

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

**Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

## Readings

Sunday	✧	Luke 1:41-45
Monday	✧	Luke 1:46-49
Tuesday	✧	Luke 1:50-53
Wednesday	✧	Luke 1:54-56
Thursday	✧	Luke 1:57-58
Friday	✧	Luke 1:59-60, 63-64
Saturday	✧	Luke 1:65-71

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,

**but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.**

## **Canticle Song of the Spirit, Revelation 22:12-21**

‘See, I am coming soon;’ says the Lord, ‘my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone’s work.’

**‘I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.’**

‘It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches.

**I am the root and the descendant of David, I am the bright morning star.’**

The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come’

**And let everyone who hears say, ‘Come’**

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

**Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.**

The one who testifies to these things says, ‘surely I am coming soon.’

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints.

## **Prayers**

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**



*Without ceasing, let us pray to God for the church, the world, and all who are in need.*

O WISDOM, who came from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily and sweetly: we pray for guidance for all our leaders and those in authority over us.  
**come, and teach us the way of prudence.**

O LORD AND RULER of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the flame of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: we pray for your creation, tend and heal all that you have made.  
**come, and redeem us with outstretched arm.**

O ROOT OF JESSE, who stands for an ensign of the people, before whom kings shall keep silence and unto whom the Gentiles shall make supplication: we pray for the nations of this world that they may be drawn to the light of your word.  
**come to deliver us, and tarry not.**

O KEY OF DAVID, and Scepter of the House of Israel, who opens and no one shuts; who shuts and no one opens: we pray for all humanity, heal our divisions and unite us, overcome racial and ethnic divides.  
**come, and bring forth the captives from their prison.**

O DAWN OF THE EAST, brightness of the light eternal, and Sun of Justice: we give thanks for all the saints, including Lucy (Dec 13), John of the Cross (Dec 14), and those who have passed recently.  
**come, and enlighten them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.**

O KING OF THE GENTILES and their desired One, the Cornerstone that makes both one: we lay before you the concerns of this day and all that burdens us.  
**come, and deliver humanity, whom You formed out of the dust of the earth.**

*Additional prayers may follow*

### *Lord's Prayer*

O EMMANUEL, God with us, our King and Lawgiver, the expected of the nations and their Savior: come to save us, O Lord our God. Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light this day;

**Amen.**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
**who has come to his people and set them free.**

May the God of peace sanctify you entirely;  
**and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

1 Thessalonians 5:23



## **EVENING PRAYER**

*Light three candle on your Advent wreath.*

Hear us, O Shepherd, as we cry to you.

**Restore us, O God.**

You who lead Joseph like a flock,

**restore us, O God;**

Restore us, O God;

**let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

*or*

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
**and all people shall see it together,**  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. Isaiah 40:5

## Thanksgiving for light

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into being,

**and you set light in the sky to govern night and day.**

In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night

**you led your people into freedom.**

Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ:

**may your Word be a lamp to our feet**

**and a light to our path;**

for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation,

**and with all your creatures we give you glory,**

through your Son Jesus Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Reflection or Scripture reading

### Canticle - *Magnificat*, Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me bless'd:

**you, the Almighty, have done great things for me**

**and holy is your name.**

You have mercy on those who fear you,

**from generation to generation.**

*You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,*

**casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

*You have filled the hungry with good things*

**and sent the rich away empty.**

*You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,*

**to remember the promise of mercy,**

**the promise made to our forebears,**

**to Abraham and his children forever.**

## **Prayers**

O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High! You reign over all things to the ends of the earth; come and teach us the way of wisdom.

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Lord, and Head of the house of Israel; you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave him the law on Sinai; come with outstretched arm and ransom us.

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations; before you kings, presidents, prime ministers, and dictators, all will keep silence, and peoples will summon you to their aid; come, set us free and delay no more.

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Key of David, and Scepter of the House of Israel; you open and none can shut, you shut and none can open; come and free the captive from prison.

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Morning Star, Splendor of the Light eternal and bright Sun of Justice; come and enlighten all who live in darkness, and in the shadow of death.

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O King of the nations; you alone can fulfill their desires; Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one; come and save us. You formed us all from the clay.

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Emmanuel, Hope of the nations and their Savior; come and save us, Lord our God.

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

The Spirit and the Bride say, Come!

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

*Lord's Prayer*

Eternal God, you lead your people with gentleness and wisdom. Bring peace upon the earth and all who dwell there in, that we may be comforted by your salvation and rest safely in your protection; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Guide us waking, O Lord,  
**and guard us sleeping;**  
that awake we may watch with Christ  
**and asleep we may rest in peace. Amen.**



# PRAYERS FOR WEEK FOUR

December 19<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>

Luke 1:72-2:5

In the final week of Advent, it's not Jesus' birth that we encounter, but John's. Known better by the title, John the Baptist, he is the the forerunner, the announcer of Jesus. At his birth, Zechariah breaks forth in song, recalling both God's work and promise and how John will be a part of it.

The image of dawn breaking in verse 78 is why this song is traditionally a part of morning prayer. Singing it regularly invites us to consider how God is using us to be "prophets of them Most High."



## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

*You may choose to light the candles of your Advent wreath throughout the week. It is especially appropriate to light them during meals and times of prayer. The provided prayer is especially appropriate at meal time.*

*Light four candles this week.*

Greetings, favored one!

**The Lord is with you.**

Blessed are you, O God. In Jesus you came to live among us. Give us hearts ready to welcome you when you come to us in friends,

neighbors, and strangers.

**Amen.**



## MORNING PRAYER

*Light four candle on your Advent wreath.*

Greetings, favored one!

**The Lord is with you.** Luke 1:28

*or*

To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ,

**be glory forever and ever.** Romans 16:27

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## **Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26**

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

**I declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.**

You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David:

**'I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.'**"

Then you spoke in a vision to your faithful one, and said: "I have set the crown on one who is mighty, I have exalted one chosen from the people.

**I have found my servant David; with my holy oil I have anointed**

**him;**

my hand shall always remain with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.

**The enemy shall not outwit him, the wicked shall not humble him.**

I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.

**My faithfulness and steadfast love shall be with him; and in my name his horn shall be exalted.**

I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.

**He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!'**

## Readings:

Sunday ✧ Luke 1:72-75

Monday ✧ Luke 1:76-77

Tuesday ✧ Luke 1:78-79

Wednesday ✧ Luke 1:80

Thursday ✧ Luke 2:1-3

Friday ✧ Luke 2:4-5

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,

**but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.**

## **Canticle *Zechariah's Song*, Luke 1:68-79**

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and set them free.

**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your servant David.**

Through your holy prophets,  
you promised of old to save us from our enemies,



from the hands of all who hate us,  
**to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember your holy covenant.**

This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
**free to worship you without fear,**

**holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

**to give God's people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

## ***Prayers***

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

During these weeks of waiting and expecting, where people live in  
fear of the unknown,

**we pray for peace.**

Where people are confused about your will for their lives or for the  
world,

**we pray for clarity.**

Where people doubt your presence and your word,

**we pray for trust.**

Where people are curious, and await the future with hopeful  
anticipation,

**we pray for wonder.**

Most of all, when the world longs for you,

**we pray you help us respond with glad tidings of comfort and joy.**

O God who brings comfort and joy, when we wait with anticipation of what will come, speak to our curiosity. Comfort us with your surprises and give us hearts that are thankful for all that you provide. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, our long-expected Savior.

**Amen.**

*Additional prayers may follow*

*Lord's Prayer*

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

The peace of God accompany your waiting, the light of Christ warm your hearts,

**and the joy of the Spirit fill us with hope today.**

**Amen.**



## **EVENING PRAYER**

*Light four candle on your Advent wreath.*

Lord, you are with us in the morning.

**Let our first thoughts and words be a prayer to you.**

Lord, you are with us in the midday.

**Keep us mindful of you as we work and play.**

Lord, you are with us in the evening.

**Prepare us for the night watches.**

Lord, you are with us in the nighttime.

**We commend our bodies and souls into your care.**

Here am I, the servant of the Lord;

**Let it be with me according to your word.** Luke 1:38

## **Thanksgiving for light**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into being,

**and you set light in the sky to govern night and day.**

In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night

**you led your people into freedom.**

Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ:

**may your Word be a lamp to our feet**

**and a light to our path;**

for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation,

**and with all your creatures we give you glory,**

through your Son Jesus Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Reflection or Scripture reading**

### **Canticle - the Magnificat, Luke 1:46-55**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

***for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.***

From this day all generations will call me bless'd:

**you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.**

You have mercy on those who fear you,  
**from generation to generation.**

You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
**casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

You have filled the hungry with good things  
**and sent the rich away empty.**

You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
**to remember the promise of mercy,  
the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.**

## **Prayers**

Lord, remember your Church; send her continually your Spirit of unity, courage and holiness.

**Always be with us, Lord Emmanuel.**

By shedding your blood, you have purified your Church; keep us ready to welcome the Day of your coming.

**Always be with us, Lord Emmanuel.**

Give to each one of us your Spirit of holiness and wisdom, in the fulfilling of the ministries to which you have called us; bring us to your presence.

**Always be with us, Lord Emmanuel.**

We pray to you for all who are leading the nations: give them a sense of what is right, that they may work towards peace and full life for all.

**Always be with us, Lord Emmanuel.**

Call from amongst us bearers of your communion; may they go to the far ends of the earth as tokens of your friendship and signs of your light.

**Always be with us, Lord Emmanuel.**

Give to all who believe and who seek you, a Spirit of prayer and of thankfulness; with the saints who have gone before us, including Katharina von Bora Luther (Dec 20) and all who have died recently, we give you thanks and bless you all the days of our life.

**Always be with us, Lord Emmanuel.**

O God, when the angel came to greet Mary, it was your will that your only Son should take flesh: may such humility always be ours through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Lord's Prayer*

Holy God, you sent your son to earth that your very presence might be among us and in us. Guide us this night, in what we do and how we rest, that his presence might be a light to everyone.

**Amen.**

Guide us waking, O Lord,  
**and guard us sleeping;**  
that awake we may watch with Christ  
**and asleep we may rest in peace. Amen.**



# PRAYERS FOR THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

December 25<sup>th</sup> - December 30<sup>th</sup>

December 31<sup>st</sup> - January 6<sup>th</sup> (see page 48)

Luke 2:6-40

**C**hristmas is too big to be contained in just one day. Just as Easter begins on Easter Sunday but continues for 50 days afterwards, the festival of Christmas begins on December 25<sup>th</sup> and continues for 12 days, ending with the feast of Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Though It's one season, it also feels too big for just one set of prayers. So we will divide it into two.



## LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS TREE

*Instead of lighting the candles of the Advent wreath (an act of waiting and counting the days to Christ), you may wish to turn on the lights of your Christmas tree during these 12 days. Alternatively, you can select white candles (a symbol of Christ's purity) to replace the Advent candles and light them.*

*Turn on the Christmas tree*

Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

**to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; Let these gifts to us be blessed. Every day your praise we sing; help us shine the light you bring.

**Amen.**



## MORNING PRAYER

*Light all the candles on your Advent wreath or turn on your Christmas tree.*

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,

**he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done,**

but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth

**and renewal by the Holy Spirit.** Titus 3:4-5

*or*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; **those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.**

*Isaiah 9:2*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## **Psalm 96**

O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

**For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.**

For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

**Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.**

Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.

**Say among the nations, "The LORD is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

**let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD;**

for he is coming, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with his truth.

## Readings

December 25 ✧ Luke 2:6-7

December 26 ✧ Luke 2:8-9

December 27 ✧ Luke 2:10-12

December 28 ✧ Luke 2:13-14

December 29 ✧ Luke 2:15-16

December 30 ✧ Luke 2:17-20



Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,

**but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.**

## **Canticle - Isaiah 60:1-2, 19 & Angel's Song, Luke 2:14**

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

**For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.**

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

**"Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth"**

*The sun shall no longer be your light by day,*

**nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night;**

*but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth**

## **Prayers**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

With the angles and archangels, and with the souls of all the blessed, Lord, we praise you:

**Glory to God in the highest!**

With the patriarchs and prophets, Lord, we bless you:

**Glory to God in the highest!**

With the Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord, our souls magnify the Lord:

**Glory to God in the highest!**

With the Apostles and evangelists, Lord, we give you thanks:

**Glory to God in the highest!**

With all the martyrs of Christ, Lord, we offer you our bodies in

sacrifice:

**Glory to God in the highest!**

With all the holy witnesses to the Gospel, Lord, we consecrate our lives:

**Glory to God in the highest!**

With all your people of the Church throughout the world, Lord, we worship you:

**Glory to God in the highest!**

Happy the dead who die in the Lord and rest now from their labors.

**Glory to God in the highest!**

God of mercy, because you showed your power in the incarnation and resurrection of our Lord, your saints triumphed in suffering and death. Strengthen us, too, that we may run our race in faith until we receive together the crown of unending life, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

*Additional prayers may follow*

*Lord's Prayer*

Jesus, Emmanuel, in your birth we see the glory of God and in your coming we receive hope of mercy. Grant us wisdom and strength to live today in the joy of your presence.

**Amen**

He was revealed in the flesh,

**born of Mary.**

Contemplated by the angles,

**proclaimed among the nations.**

Believed in the world,

**taken up in glory!**

Go in peace, Christ is our light.

**Thanks be to God.**



## EVENING PRAYER

*Light all the candles on your Advent wreath or turn on your Christmas tree.*

The floods clap their hands.

**The hills sing for joy.**

God has come to restore the broken:

**Justice for everyone, everything fair.**

Sing to God something brand new!

**For God has done wonderful things!** Psalm 98

## Thanksgiving for light

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into being,

**and you set light in the sky to govern night and day.**

In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night

**you led your people into freedom.**

Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ:

**may your Word be a lamp to our feet**

**and a light to our path;**

for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation,

**and with all your creatures we give you glory,**

through your Son Jesus Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Reflection or Scripture reading

## **Canticle - Simeon's Song, Luke 2:29-32**

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:

**your word has been fulfilled.**

My own eyes have seen the salvation

**which you have prepared in the sight of every people:**

a light to reveal you to the nations

**and the glory of your people Israel.**

## **Prayers**

Lord, remember your Church; send her continually your Spirit of unity, courage and holiness.

**Always be with us, Lord Emmanuel.**

By shedding your blood, you have purified your Church; keep us ready to welcome the Day of your coming.

**Always be with us, Lord Emmanuel.**

Give to each one of us your Spirit of holiness and wisdom, in the fulfilling of the ministries to which you have called us; bring us to your presence.

**Always be with us, Lord Emmanuel.**

We pray you for all who are leading the nations: give them a sense of what is right, that they may work towards peace and full life for all.

**Always be with us, Lord Emmanuel.**

Call from amongst us bearers of your communion; may they go to the far ends of the earth as tokens of your friendship and signs of your light.

**Always be with us, Lord Emmanuel.**

Give to all who believe and who seek you a Spirit of prayer and of thankfulness; so we shall give you thanks and bless you in all the days of our life.

**Always be with us, Lord Emmanuel.**

*Lord's Prayer*

Majestic Son of Righteousness, though the night draws in, the glory of your divine light shines bright. Open our hearts to welcome your peace, our hands to do your will, and our lives to your enduring Grace.

**Amen.**

Guide us waking, O Lord,  
**and guard us sleeping;**  
that awake we may watch with Christ  
**and asleep we may rest in peace. Amen.**



December 31<sup>st</sup> - January 6<sup>th</sup>

## LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS TREE

*Instead of lighting the candles of the Advent wreath (an act of waiting and counting the days to Christ), you may wish to turn on the lights of your Christmas tree during these 12 days. Alternatively, you can select white candles (a symbol of Christ's purity) to replace the Advent candles and light them.*

*Turn on the Christmas tree*

Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

**to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; Let these gifts to us be blessed.  
Every day your praise we sing; help us shine the light you bring.  
**Amen.**



## MORNING PRAYER

*Light all the candles on your Advent wreath or turn on your Christmas tree.*

Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?

**For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.** Matthew 2:2

*or*

In former generations this mystery [of Christ] was not made known to humankind,

**as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:**

that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body,

**and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.**

*Ephesians 3:5-6*

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## **Psalm 72**

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

**May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.**

May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**

May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.**

In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.**

May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

**For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.**

He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

**From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.**

## Readings

- December 31 ✧ Luke 2:21
- January 1 ✧ Luke 2:22-24
- January 2 ✧ Luke 2:25-26
- January 3 ✧ Luke 2:27-32
- January 4 ✧ Luke 2:33-35
- January 5 ✧ Luke 2:36-38
- January 6 ✧ Luke 2:39-40

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,

**but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.**

## Canticle - Song of the Messiah, Isaiah 9

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
**those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, upon them the light has dawned.**

You have increased their joy and given them great gladness; they rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest.

**Fo you have shattered the yoke that burdened them; the bar that lay heavy on their shoulders.**

For to us a child is born and to us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulder.

**And his name will be called: Wonderful Counsellor; the Mighty God; the Everlasting Father; the Prince of Peace.**

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,

**Upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness.**



From this time forth and for evermore; the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## **Prayers**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

We have seen his star in the East, Alleluia!

**And we have come to worship him, Alleluia!**

With joy let us pray to our Savior, the Son of God made human, and say to him:

**Lord, blessed by your Name.**

O Christ, Son of God, you were before the world began, and you came to save us all: making us witnesses of your goodness.

**Lord, blessed by your Name.**

Sun of justice, you shone in all eternity, true light of all that exists: giving light to all who dwell in the shadow of death.

**Lord, blessed by your Name.**

You became a tiny child and were laid in a manger: showing us the simplicity of the Father's love.

**Lord, blessed by your Name.**

King of glory, you accepted such inconceivable humbling: to show us the spirit of our discipleship.

**Lord, blessed by your Name.**

You became living Bread for us and gave us eternal life: unite us with the saints of all times, including Stephen (Dec 26), the Holy Innocents (Dec 28), and John (Dec 29).

**Lord, blessed by your Name.**

Lord Christ, your light shines in our darkness, giving gladness in our sorrow and a presence in our isolation; we pray you to fill our lives with your mystery, until our hearts overflow with gladness and praise, for you are the beginning and end of all that exists, and you

live for evermore.

**Amen.**

*Additional prayers may follow*

*Lord's Prayer*

Everlasting God, the radiance of all faithful people, you brought the nations to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the world through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

May we be filled with the wonder of Mary,

**the obedience of Joseph,**

the joy of the angels,

**the eagerness of the shepherds,**

the determination of the magi,

and the peace of the Christ child this day and always.

**Amen**



## **EVENING PRAYER**

*Light all the candles on your Advent wreath or turn on your Christmas tree.*

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.** Hebrews 1:1-2

## Thanksgiving for light

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you called light into being,

**and you set light in the sky to govern night and day.**

In a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night

**you led your people into freedom.**

Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ:

**may your Word be a lamp to our feet**

**and a light to our path;**

for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation,

**and with all your creatures we give you glory,**

through your Son Jesus Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Reflection or Scripture reading

### Canticle - Isaiah 60 (excerpts)

Arise, shine out, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising upon you.

**Though night still covers the earth, and darkness the peoples;**

**above you the Holy One arises, and above you God's glory appears.**

**The nations will come to your light, and Kings to your dawning brightness.**

Your gates will lie open continually, shut neither by day nor by night.

**The sound of violence shall be heard no longer in your land, or ruin and devastation within your borders.**

You will call your walls, Salvation, and your gates, Praise.

**No more will the sun give your daylight, nor moonlight shine upon you;**

But the Lord will be your everlasting light, your God will be your splendor.

**For you shall be called the city of God, the dwelling of the Holy One of Israel.**

## **Prayers**

Glory to God in the highest,  
**and peace to God's people on earth.**

Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

**Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

**Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

**Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.**

### *Lord's Prayer*

Almighty God, you made the night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory forever.

**Amen.**

Guide us waking, O Lord,  
**and guard us sleeping;**  
that awake we may watch with Christ  
**and asleep we may rest in peace. Amen.**



# AN EPIPHANY DAY HOUSE BLESSING

January 5<sup>th</sup>

It is tradition to bless the house each year on the night before Epiphany—known as Twelfth Night—or on Epiphany Day, January 6<sup>th</sup>. In medieval times, the blessing was a way to ward off evil. Today it is a way to remind us that God is present in our homes. In Eastern Europe, it became common to “chalk the door” by writing a symbol of the blessing on the frame of the main entrance. This blessing remained throughout the year. The following liturgy will be incorporated into evening prayer on January 5<sup>th</sup>. You may join in at the door of your own home. Have a piece of chalk ready. Alternatively, you may use it at a time convenient for you.



Peace to this house and to all who enter here.

**By wisdom a house is built,**  
and through understanding it is established;  
**through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful**  
**treasures.** Proverbs 24:3-4

As we prepare to ask God’s blessing on this household, let us listen to the words of scripture.

In the beginning was the Word,  
**and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**  
He was in the beginning with God.

**All things came into being through him,  
and without him not one thing came into being,**  
and the life was the light of all people.

The Word became flesh and lived among us,  
**and we have seen his glory,**  
the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.  
**From his fullness we have all received,  
grace upon grace.** John 1:1-4, 14, 16

*Inscription*

*This inscription may be made with chalk above the entrance:*

20 † C M B † 21

Write the appropriate character (left) while speaking the text (right).

The magi of old, known as  
C Caspar,  
M Melchior, and  
B Balthasar,  
followed the star of God's Son who came to dwell among us  
20 two thousand  
21 and twenty years ago.  
† Christ, bless this house,  
† and remain with us throughout the new year.

*Prayer of Blessing*

*O God, you revealed your Son to all people by the shining light of a star. We pray that you bless this home and all who live here with your gracious presence. May your love be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Christ our Lord.*

**Amen.**



# ADVENT CAROLS

## ***My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness***

My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord; I sing my Savior's praise!  
You looked upon my lowliness, and I am full of grace.  
Now every land and every age this blessing shall proclaim  
great wonders you have done for me, and holy is your name.

To all who live in holy fear your mercy ever flows.  
With mighty arm you dash the proud, their scheming hearts expose.  
The ruthless you have cast aside, the lowly throned instead;  
the hungry filled with all good things the rich sent off unfed.

To Israel, your servant blest, your help is ever sure;  
the promise to our parents made their children will secure.  
Sing glory to the Holy One, give honor to the Word,  
and praise the Power of the Most High, one God, by all adored.

## ***He Came Down***

He came down that we may have love (x3)  
hallelujah forever more.

...light  
...peace  
...joy

## ***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
*Refrain:* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O Come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh;  
in strength and beauty come and stay, teach us your will and guide our  
way.

*Refrain*

O Come, O Come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times you gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

*Refrain*

O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell you people save, and give them victory over the  
grave.

*Refrain*

O come, O key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

*Refrain*

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of Justice, now draw  
near  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to  
flight.

*Refrain*

O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one,  
refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new.

*Refrain*

### **Wait for the Lord**

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart.

### **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

Come, thou Long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,  
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

### **In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful**

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful.

In the Lord I will rejoice.

Look to God, do not be afraid.

Lift up your voices the Lord is near. (x2)



### **Come Now, O God**

Come now, O God, when our love is forsaken.  
Come, when our bedrock of faith has been shaken.  
Come, when our deepest of hopes are mistaken.  
Come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Come, when we squander the freedom you gave us.  
Come, break the systems of sin that enslave us.  
Come, though we wonder if you can still save us.  
Come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Come, put an end to our self-serving madness.  
Come, while the world is enshrouded in sadness.  
Come, turn the tears of our mourning to gladness.  
Come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

