



Morning and Evening Prayer

Advent & Christmas
2018-2019

BEHOLD THE BRIDEGROOM COMETH

*His Eyes are as a Dove's, and she's Dove-eyed;
He knows His lovely mirror, sister, Bride.*

*He speaks with Dove-voice of exceeding love,
And she with love-voice of an answering Dove.*

*Behold the Bridegroom cometh: go we out
With lamps ablaze and garlands round about
To meet Him in a rapture with a shout.*

"Advent Sunday," Christina Rossetti

Sacred Time in a Secular Age

Christians have always been a people “untimely born,” as Paul says of himself (1 Cor 15:8). This is especially true in our day, when what we might call “the CNN-ization of time” can send us into “a frenetic pursuit of ‘breaking news,’” in which we rarely see the the big picture but always hunger for the next thing.¹ Our holiday seasons are much the same. Take, for example, the American holiday trifecta of Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. When exactly does this season begin? When does it end? No one really knows. But we sure are exhausted by the end of it.

This is where the Christian Year can be a glass of cool water (or a steamy cup of cider, if you like). For centuries, God has been inviting his people to “live inside a big story, one that started long before our birth and that will go on long after our death, one that’s as wide as the universe and old as eternity: the Story of God as centered in Jesus the Christ.”² Unlike our secular calendars, which seem to take us only from one party to the next, the Christian calendar leads us closer and closer to new creation. It follows the life of Jesus. And so can we—by reliving the moments of our Lord’s birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension, and certain return.

The Season of Advent(s)

The Christian year begins with the four-week season of Advent, which means “coming.” But don’t let its proximity to Christmas fool you: Advent is not primarily about Jesus’ *first* coming at Christmas, but about his *second* coming at the end of the age. “During Advent each year, the Christian year teaches us to once again become Israel, recognizing our sin and need—waiting, longing, hoping, calling, praying for the coming of the Messiah, the advent of justice, and the in-breaking of shalom.”³ And yet, between these two advents, there are many other advents to look for. “In our encounters with the poor and the stranger,” in our times of silence and worship, and “in those unexpected moments of transfiguration surely there is also an advent and Christ comes to us. The God in whom we live and move and have our being may come and meet us when and where he pleases, and any door we open may be the door” to his mysterious, loving presence.⁴

Inhabiting the Story

The Bible is a story. And in this story God speaks to us. The daily Advent readings are intended to place each of us at the divine intersection of Word and Spirit. It's at this location where God's voice can be heard, and his presence can be known. But if the Advent readings are geared more toward personal use, the Jesse Tree readings are designed to be read in a group—whether that's with family, a roommate, or a friend. These readings span the biblical story from the creation of the world to the birth of Jesus, filling our imaginations with God's good promises and helping us to inhabit the story into which God has written each of our lives.

A Spiritual Pilgrimage

The season of “Advent falls in winter, at the end of the year, in the dark and cold, but its focus is on the coming of light and life, when the Ancient of Days becomes a young child and says, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’”⁵ These four wintry weeks are a journey—a spiritual pilgrimage, in which we begin to see ourselves in the light of Christ. What are the habits, the vices, the deeply engrained patterns of thinking that hold us in their power? How are our hopes and dreams being shaped by the culture around us? Advent is a time for us to begin the Christian Year “by living deeply into Christ:” by finding ourselves in his story, rejoicing in the glimpses of his kingdom, crying out for justice, and asking for wisdom.⁶ Let's make this journey together, watching and praying for many advents along the way.

¹ James K. A. Smith, *Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview, and Cultural Formation* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2009), 159.

² Bobby Gross, *Living the Christian Year: Time to Inhabit the Story of God* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009), 15.

³ Smith, *Desiring the Kingdom*, 157.

⁴ Malcolm Guite, *Waiting on the Word: A Poem a Day for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany* (London, UK: Canterbury Press, 2015), ix.

⁵ Guite, *Waiting on the Word*, ix.

⁶ Craig Bartholomew, *Contours of the Kuyperian Tradition: A Systematic Introduction* (Downers Grove, IL, 2017), 9.

Opening Sentences*

Say one or more of the following sentences.

In the Morning:

In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:3

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

Philippians 1:2

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!"

Psalm 122:1

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Psalm 19:14

In the Evening:

Therefore stay awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning – lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.

Mark 13:35-36

Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12

O Lord, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.

Psalm 26:8

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Psalm 141:2

Confession of Sin

Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our
own hearts.

we have offended against your holy laws.
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done;
and apart from your grace, there is no health in us.

O Lord, have mercy upon us.

Spare all those who confess their faults.

Restore all those who are penitent, according to your promises
declared to all people in Christ Jesus our Lord;

And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

Prayer for Pardon and Peace*

Grant your faithful people, merciful Lord, pardon and peace; that we
may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the Morning and Evening:

○ Lord, open our lips:*

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

○ God, make speed to save us:*

○ Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:*

***As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.***

Praise the Lord.*

The Lord's name be praised.

In the Morning Psalm 95:1-7; 8-11 (Venite, ○ Come)

○ come, let us sing unto the Lord; *

let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the depths of the earth *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, and he made it, *

and his hands prepared the dry land.

○ come, let us worship and fall down, *

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God, *

and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

In the Evening (Phos Hilaron)

○ gladsome light,

pure brightness of the ever-living Father in heaven, *

○ Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,

and our eyes behold the vesper light, *

we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, *

○ Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all
the worlds.

The Psalm(s) and Lessons

Read the Psalm(s) for the day followed by the lessons.

Advent December 2 - December 24					
Date	Psalms Morning	Psalms Evening	First Lesson	Second Lesson	Jesse Tree
12/2	81	83	Isa 45	Luke 9:51-end	Genesis 1-2:3 (Earth)
12/3	84	85	Isa 46	Luke 10:1-24	Genesis 2:4-3:24 (Fruit & Snake)
12/4	86, 87	88	Isa 47	Luke 10:25-end	Genesis 6:11-22; 7:17-8:1; 9:8-17 (Ark & Rainbow)
12/5	89:1-18	89:19-52	Isa 48	Luke 11:1-28	Genesis 12:1-7, 15:1-6 (Stars)
12/6	90	91	Isa 49	Luke 11:29-end	Genesis 22:1-19 (Ram)
12/7	92, 93	94	Isa 50	Luke 12:1-34	Genesis 28:10-22 (Ladder)
12/8	95, 96	97, 98	Isa 51	Luke 12:35-53	Genesis 37; 45:1-11 (Coat)
12/9	99, 100, 101	102	Isa 52	Luke 12:54—13:9	Exodus 2:1-10, 23-25; 3:1-12 (Burning Bush)
12/10	103	104	Isa 53	Luke 13:10-end	Exodus 2:1-14, 29-32; 14:10-30 (Lamb)
12/11	105:1-22	105:23-45	Isa 54	Luke 14:1-24	Exodus 20:1-17 (Stone Tablets)
12/12	106:1-18	106:19-48	Isa 55	Luke 14:25—15:10	Joshua 2:1-21 (Red Rope)
12/13	107:1-22	107:23-43	Isa 56	Luke 15:11-end	Ruth 1:1-2:13; 4 (Wheat)
12/14	108, 110	109	Isa 57	Luke 16	1 Samuel 16:1-13; 17:1-4, 41-50 (Crown)
12/15	111, 112	113, 114	Isa 58	Luke 17:1-19	1 Kings 17:1-7; 18:17-41 (Altar & Fire)
12/16	115	116, 117	Isa 59	Luke 17:20-end	Isaiah 6:1-17; 9:2-7 (Stump)
12/17	119:1-24	119:25-48	Isa 60	Luke 18:1-30	Jeremiah 8:22-9:11 (Tears)
12/18	119:49-72	119:73-88	Isa 61	Luke 18:31—19:10	Nehemiah 1:2-8; 6:15-16 (Wall)
12/19	119:89- 104	119:105- 128	Isa 62	Luke 19:11-28	Daniel 6 (Lion)
12/20	119:129-1 52	119:153-1 76	Isa 63	Luke 19:29-end	Luke 1:26-38 (White Lily)
12/21 Thomas	118	120, 121	Isa 64	Luke 20:1-26	Luke 1:39-56 (Mother with Child)
12/22	122, 123	124, 125, 126	Isa 65	Luke 20:27—21:4	Luke 1:67-80 (Scallop Shell)
12/23	127, 128	129, 130, 131	Isa 66	Luke 21:5-end	Matthew 1:18-25 (Tools)
12/24	132, 133	134, 135	Song of Songs 1	Luke 22:1-38	Luke 2:1-22 (Manger)

Christmas | December 25 - January 5

Date	Psalms Morning	Psalms Evening	First Lesson	Second Lesson
12/25 <i>Christmas</i>	96	97	Isaiah 9:1-7	Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
12/26 <i>Stephen</i>	136	137, 138	Song of Songs 2-3	Luke 22:39-53
12/27 <i>John</i>	139	141, 142	Song of Songs 4	Luke 22:54-end
12/28 <i>Innocents</i>	140	143	Song of Songs 5	Luke 23:1-25
12/29	144	145	Song of Songs 6	Luke 23:26-49
12/30	146	147	Song of Songs 7	Luke 23:50-24:12
12/31	148	149, 150	Song of Songs 8	Luke 24:13-end
1/1 <i>Holy Name</i>	1, 2	3, 4	Genesis 1	John 1:1-28
1/2	5, 6	7	Genesis 2	John 1:29-end
1/3	9	10	Genesis 3	John 2
1/4	8, 11	15, 16	Genesis 4	John 3:1-21
1/5	12, 13, 14	17	Genesis 5	John 1:29-end

After the lessons pray one of the following Canticles.

In the Morning Luke 1:46-55 (Magnificat: The Song of Mary)

My soul magnifies the Lord,
 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
 For he has regarded
 the lowliness of his handmaiden.
 For behold, from now on,
 all generations will call me blessed.
 For he that is mighty has magnified me,
 and holy is his Name.
 And his mercy is on those who fear him,
 throughout all generations.
 He has shown the strength of his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
 He has brought down the mighty from their thrones,
 and has exalted the humble and meek.
 He has filled the hungry with good things,
 and the rich he has sent empty away.
 He, remembering his mercy, has helped his servant Israel,
 as he promised to our fathers, Abraham and his seed forever.
 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
 world without end. Amen.

In the Evening Luke 2:29-32 (Nunc dimittis: The Song of Simeon)

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace,
according to your word.
For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared before the face of all people;
to be a light to lighten the Gentiles,
and to be the glory of your people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

The Suffrages

- *O Lord, show us your mercy;
 And grant us your salvation.
- *O Lord, save our nations;
 And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
- *Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
 And make your chosen people joyful.
- *O Lord, save your people;
 And bless your inheritance.
- *Give peace in our time, O Lord;
 For only in you can we live in safety.
- *Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
 Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
- *Create in us clean hearts, O God;
 And take not your Holy Spirit from us.

Pray the appropriate Collect for Advent or Christmas

The First Week of Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Second Week of Advent

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your Holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Third Week of Advent

Lord Jesus Christ, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise make ready your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world, we may be found a people acceptable in your sight; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Fourth Week of Advent

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins from running the race that is set before us, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Christmas Eve

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the revelation of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Christmas Day

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born [this day] of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever.

The First Sunday of Christmas

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ [January 1]

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was circumcised for our sake in obedience to the Covenant of Moses, and given the Name that is above every name: give us the grace to faithfully bear his Name, to worship him in the Spirit given in the New Covenant, and to proclaim him as the Savior of the world; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Second Sunday of Christmas

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Pray a Collect for Mission

In the Morning*:

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

In the Evening*:

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

Offer Petitions, Intercessions, & Thanksgivings:

Offer Petitions: Requests for yourself

Offer Intercessions: Requests for others

- . For Church of the Holy Cross
- . For our diocese, clergy, sister churches, and the global church
- . For our local communities
- . For the created and social order
- . For the world, our nation, and leaders in authority
- . For the sick and suffering
- . For family and friends
- . For enemies

Offer Thanksgivings: Gratitude to God

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

The Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

CHURCH OF THE
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