



Scripture Devotional

Advent – Christmas

Advent is the season when Christians observe a time of watchful waiting and preparation for Christ's coming. Over the centuries there have been different emphases, but there are really three preparations:

- i) for Jesus' coming at the end of time to judge the world*
- ii) for the celebration of his birth in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago*
- iii) for the arrival of Jesus in the heart of each believer.*

The following readings are of longstanding use among Christians during Advent. The Lord's Prayer and a prayer for both the Advent and Christmas seasons are included as well.

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, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Prayer for the Advent Season

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 CREATION, FALL and SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

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| Dec 1 | Genesis 1.1-2.2 | <i>The Story of Creation</i> |
| Dec 2 | Genesis 3.1-19 | <i>Adam and Eve rebel and are cast out of Eden</i> |
| Dec 3 | Genesis 22.15-18 | <i>The world will be blessed through Abraham's offspring</i> |
| Dec 4 | Isaiah 64.1-9a | <i>Isaiah prays for mercy</i> |
| Dec 5 | Isaiah 65.17-25 | <i>God promises new heavens and a new earth</i> |
| Dec 6 | Daniel 7.9-14 | <i>Daniel has a vision of the reign of God</i> |
| Dec 7 | Matthew 24.29-51 | <i>The second Coming of the Son of Man</i> |
| Dec 8 | Matthew 25.1-13 | <i>The Parable of the Ten Virgins</i> |
| Dec 9 | Matthew 25.31-46 | <i>The Final Judgment</i> |
| Dec 10 | 2 Peter 3.8-15 | <i>St. Peter speaks of the coming Day of the Lord</i> |
| Dec 11 | Revelation 20.11-15 | <i>St. John has a vision of the final judgment</i> |
| Dec 12 | Revelation 21.1-7 | <i>St. John is given a vision of the new heaven and earth</i> |

***PROPHECIES OF THE BIRTH
and COMING OF THE MESSIAH***

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| Dec 13 | Isaiah 7.10-14 | <i>A virgin shall bear a son: Immanuel (God with us)</i> |
| Dec 14 | Isaiah 9.2, 6-7 | <i>Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah</i> |
| Dec 15 | Isaiah 11.1-10 | <i>The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown</i> |
| Dec 16 | Isaiah 40.1-11 | <i>The Lord comforts his people</i> |
| Dec 17 | Isaiah 52.7-10 | <i>Isaiah announces the coming salvation of the Lord</i> |
| Dec 18 | Jeremiah 23.5-8 | <i>God will raise up for David a righteous Branch</i> |
| Dec 19 | Micah 5.2-4 | <i>The ruler of Israel is to be born in Bethlehem</i> |
| Dec 20 | Matthew 3.1-12 | <i>John the Baptist Prepares the Way</i> |
| Dec 21 | Luke 1.26-38 | <i>The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> |
| Dec 22 | Matthew 1.18-25a | <i>An angel of the Lord appears to Joseph</i> |
| Dec 23 | Luke 1.39-55 | <i>Zechariah & Elizabeth rejoice at the coming of Mary</i> |
| Dec 24 | Isaiah 61.10-62.3 | <i>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD</i> |

Prayer for the Christmas Season

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. *Amen.*



IMMANUEL – GOD WITH US

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| Dec 25 | Luke 2.1-21 | <i>St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus</i> |
| Dec 26 | John 1.1-14 | <i>St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation</i> |
| Dec 27 | Luke 2.22-38 | <i>Jesus is presented at the Temple</i> |
| Dec 28 | Matthew 2.1-12 | <i>The wise men are led by the star to Jesus</i> |
| Dec 29 | Isaiah 60.1-6 | <i>The glory of the LORD has risen upon you</i> |
| Dec 30 | Matthew 2.13-23 | <i>The Flight to Egypt & return to Nazareth</i> |
| Dec 31 | Luke 2.41-52 | <i>The boy Jesus in the Temple</i> |