

AN INTRODUCTION TO ADVENT

The season of Advent marks the beginning of the church calendar and is four Sundays long. It's a time of expectation and preparation. We prepare for the first coming of Christ as a baby in a manger, and we look to the coming of Christ at the end of the age.

During Advent, Christians are called to fast, making space in our hearts and souls for the coming of Jesus.

We encourage you to develop and grow your devotional rhythm as a family during Advent, and hope this guide will serve you in this area.

THIS GUIDE

This guide is a compilation of the Morning, Evening, and Family prayers from the ACNA Book of Common Prayer, 2019.

You will find prayers as well as scripture readings to share together as a family. The morning readings are taken from the suggested devotions in the book "A Thrill of Hope" by Ashley Wallace (available on Amazon). The evening readings reflect on a different Psalm each week, in conjunction with our Advent sermon series at Via Lethbridge.

On Sunday mornings, we will light the candles on our Advent wreath whilst reading the Collect. These same Advent Collects are included in the prayers, so you can also use them when lighting candles at home.

Pray together the text in bold. If you have older children, include them in leading and reading different sections of prayer and scripture.

MORNING PRAYER

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God." Isaiah 40:3

PSALM 51: 10-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me
Cast me not away from your presence,
And take not your holy Spirit from me.
O give me the comfort of your help again,
And sustain me with your willing Spirit.

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.

SCRIPTURE READING FOR THE DAY

See scripture reading table later in the booklet for today's reading

BENEDICTUS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
He has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
Born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old
That he would save us from our enemies,
From the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers
And to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,
To set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear,
Holy and righteous in his sight
All the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
For you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his 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 in the shadow of death,
And to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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 APOSTLES 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 ever lasting. Amen.

THE LORDS 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

ADVENT COLLECT OF THE WEEK

See collects at the end of the booklet for this week's prayer

PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

Prayers for yourself:

- Where do you need God's help today?
- Where would you like to see more of God in your life?

Prayers for others:

- Family, friends, neighbours
- Enemies
- The church, the world, our nation and government
- For those who are oppressed and suffering
- For those who are sick
- For people to come to know Jesus

Thanksgiving:

- What things would you like to say thank you to God for?

USE THIS SPACE TO WRITE DOWN SOME OF THE PEOPLE AND THINGS YOU ARE PRAYING FOR:

USE THIS SPACE TO WRITE DOWN SOME OF THE THINGS YOU ARE THANKFUL TO GOD FOR:

A PRAYER OF ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his name you will be in the midst of them:

Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EVENING PRAYER

O gladsome light,
Pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O 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,
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,
And to be glorified through all the worlds.

CONFESSION

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.
Oh 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 merciful Father, for his sake,
That we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

Grant to 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.

THE PSALMS

See the table at the end of the booklet for the Psalm of the week.

Reflect on different parts of the Psalm. Look at the art or song that we have shared in response to each week's sermon. Consider creating your own art in response.

MAGNIFICAT

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 for ever.
Luke 1: 46-55

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

THE LORDS 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

PRAYERS FOR OURSELVES AND OTHERS

Prayers for yourself:

- Where did you see and experience God in your day today?
- Where do you need God's help for tomorrow?
- Is there anything you're worried or anxious about?

Prayers for others:

- Family, friends, neighbours
- Enemies,
- The church, the world, our nation and government
- For those who are oppressed and suffering
- For those who are sick.
- For people to come to know Jesus.

Thanksgiving:

- What things would you like to say thank you to God for?

USE THIS SPACE TO WRITE DOWN SOME OF THE PEOPLE AND
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THE COLLECT

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread.

Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

MORNING READINGS

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOV 29

GENESIS 1 - 2:3

NOV 30

GENESIS 2

DEC 1

GENESIS 3

DEC 2

GENESIS 6:12 - 7:24

DEC 3

GENESIS 8 - 9

DEC 4

GENESIS 12:1 -9, 15:1-5

DEC 5

GENESIS 21: 1 - 6

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DEC 6

GENESIS 27

DEC 7

GENESIS 37

DEC 8

EXODUS 6: 1-13

DEC 9

EXODUS 14: 5 - 31

DEC 10

EXODUS 16

DEC 11

JOSHUA 1

DEC 12

1 SAMUEL 16: 1-3

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	DEC 13	1 SAMEUL 17
	DEC 14	PSLAM 23
	DEC 15	2 KINGS 5
	DEC 16	ISAIAH 9: 1-7, 11
	DEC 17	DANIEL 6
	DEC 18	JONAH 1 - 3
	DEC 19	NEHEMIAH 8: 1-12, MALACHI 3
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	DEC 20	ISAIAH 40: 3-5
	DEC 21	JOHN 1: 1-18
	DEC 22	LUKE 1: 26 -38
	DEC 23	LUKE 1:39 - 56
CHRISTMAS EVE	DEC 24	LUKE 2: 1 - 20
CHRISTMAS DAY	DEC 25	PSALM 96

EVENING READINGS

DATE	PSALM READING
1st Sunday of Advent Nov 29 – Dec 5	Psalm 80
2nd Sunday of Advent Dec 6 - 12	Psalm 85
3rd Sunday of Advent Dec 13 - 19	Psalm 126
4th Sunday of Advent Dec 20-25	Psalm 132

ADVENT COLLECTS

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

November 29th – December 5th

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 for ever. **Amen.**

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 6th - 12th

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 SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 13th - 19th

O Lord Jesus Christ, you 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 toward the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world, we may be found a people acceptable in your sight; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 20th - 23rd

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 for ever. **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 mystery 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 Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**