

COME  
*Lord Jesus*



DAILY PRAYERS FOR ADVENT

## INTRODUCTION

Christian time is characterized by a tension of the already and the not yet. Our salvation, accomplished by God through Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit, has already begun but has not yet been fully realized. Advent is a season permeated by this tension of Christ's presence among us in history (the already) and anticipation of Christ's revelation of himself again in our hearts and in our world (the not yet). So Advent requires us both to attend more consciously in our reflection and prayer to discover Christ already hidden among us and also to anticipate that Christ's presence will be revealed anew so that we can open our hearts to him even more, be transformed and then change our world into the kind of world that Jesus envisioned in his teaching and preaching of God's kingdom. So as we spend this Advent seeking to discover Jesus' presence and respond more fully to it, we also resolve to share that presence with others and to make the world a better place because of this experience. We hope that the daily prayers in this little booklet and the accompanying Scripture verse to look up in your Bible will help you become more aware of God's presence in your self and your life.

Steve Mueller, Editor

## COME, LORD JESUS!

First Sunday of Advent — Revelation 22:20

Come Jesus, come. Come where falsehood, ignorance of God, violence and injustice predominate. Come Lord Jesus, give power to the good in the world and help us be bearers of your light, peacemakers, witnesses of the truth. Come, Lord Jesus!

—Pope Benedict XVI

## OPEN OUR EYES TO YOU

Monday, Week 1 — Psalm 59:9

O God, help us to open all our senses for your coming into our lives, into our society, to this earth, to go through life with eyes open for you, to see Christ in oppressed and unimportant people. Strengthen our faith so that we can see—and can endure what we see.

—Jürgen Moltmann  
*Passion for God*

## YOU ARE NEAR

Tuesday, Week 1 — Psalm 119:51

O God, help us to consistently nourish, restore and renew our relationship with you. Through our daily prayer, help us to discover you throughout our entire day, to be more present to our relationships, to our work, and to whatever takes place in our lives. Wake us up to how you are present in our every moment.

—Joyce Rupp  
*The Cup of Our Life*

## WATCHING FOR THE LORD

Wednesday, Week 1 — Mark 13:33

O Lord, it is Advent again. You are coming, always coming. Help me be alert to your coming. Give me ears to hear and eyes to see, to recognize you at any moment of my life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen  
*¡Gracias!*

## ASK & YOU WILL RECEIVE

Thursday, Week 1 — Matthew 7:7

O Lord, I know not what to ask of you; you alone know what are my true needs. You love me more than I know how to love myself. Help me to see my real needs which are concealed from me. I dare not ask either a cross or consolation. I can only wait on you. My heart is open to you.

—Metropolitan Anthony  
of Sourozh (Anthony Bloom)  
*Living Prayer*

## HELP THOSE IN NEED

Friday, Week 1 — Hebrews 4:16

O God, open our eyes so that we might see deeply the need of Christ and his pain in our sisters and brothers.

Then, seeing, help us, no matter what the time or the cost, to hasten to help, to console, to assuage Christ's pain in others.

—Catherine de Hueck Doherty  
*The People of the Towel & the Water*

## GIVE US PEACE

Saturday, Week 1— John 14:27

Mary, queen of peace, we entrust our lives to you. Shelter us from war, hatred and oppression. Teach us to live in peace, to educate ourselves for peace. Inspire us to act justly, to revere all God has made. Root peace firmly in our hearts and in our world.

—Pope St. John Paul II

## PREPARE HIS WAY

Second Sunday of Advent — Luke 3:4

O God, help us to be aware of the rough ways in our relationships with family, friends and strangers, with co-workers, co-learners and with those in authority. Help us smooth out the bumps, and with your grace may we become less, so that you can be more present in us. May we carve out a space in ourselves where the Prince of Peace, the Wonder Counselor, can be born. By all these Advent works may we prepare a roadway for a truly holy Christmas.

—Edward Hays  
*Make Straight the Crooked Ways*

## BE MERCIFUL

Monday, Week 2 — Luke 6:36

O God, let us live out in our daily lives the mercy that you constantly extend to all of us. Let us allow you to surprise us. May we echo your word which is a message and a sign of pardon, strength, aid and love. May we never tire of extending mercy, and be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort.

—Pope Francis

## PRAISE GOD!

Tuesday, Week 2 — Psalm 106:1

Father in heaven, you are praised, honored, glorified by all creatures you have brought into existence out of your love. Let us offer you our humble praise. Let it come from the depths of our hearts and be a promise of how we want to live for the rest of our lives.

—Killian Speckner  
*The Prayers of Father Killian*

## DRAWING CLOSER TO JESUS

Wednesday, Week 2 — Psalm 67:1

O gracious and loving Mary, Lady of Guadalupe, through your presence make us aware of our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son. May Christ send us blessings of peace and harmony, and may we receive love and the healing we need to get closer to him. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

—Pope St. John XXIII

## JESUS IN OUR FAMILIES

Thursday, Week 2 — Matthew 25:40

O God, teach us to see Jesus in the members of our families, especially in their distressing disguise. Help us carry out our family duties in a holy way. May we love one another as you love each one of us, more and more each day, and forgive each other's faults as you forgive our sins. Help us, O loving Father, to take whatever you give and give whatever you take with a big smile.

—St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta  
*A Simple Path*



## I AM WITH YOU

Friday, Week 2 — Isaiah 43:2

O God, you speak to us in all the events of our lives and not merely in times of formal prayer. Everything that happens, everything that we do, is a revelation of yourself to us. Help us listen with attention and sensitivity so that all the events of our lives become encounters with you, all events become prayer.

—Thomas H. Green, SJ  
*Opening to God*

## HIDDEN WITH CHRIST IN GOD

Saturday, Week 2 — Colossians 3:3

O God, just as the trees of autumn clothe themselves with emptiness and trust, surrendering leaves that are no longer needed, may we too be able to surrender all that detains us from putting on Christ. May we be able to live lives hidden with Christ in You!

—Macrina Wiederkehr, OSB

*Abide: Keeping Vigil with the Word of God*

## REJOICE IN THE LORD!

Third Sunday of Advent — Philippians 4:4

O God, help us to be in touch with the goodness of the world and the joyfulness of life. Let us rejoice and be glad for all the great and small pleasures that come to us from you through creation.

—Richard Rohr, OFM, & Joseph Martos

*Why Be Catholic?*

## GOD'S WONDERS REVEALED

Monday, Week 3 — Wisdom 13:5

Lord and Creator, you have spread so much beauty over the earth and it tells me about your incomprehensible beauty. Although you have hidden yourself and concealed your beauty, my eye, enlightened by faith, reaches you and my soul recognizes its creator, and my heart is completely immersed in adoration.

—St. Faustina Kowalska



## THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST IN YOU

Tuesday, Week 3 — Colossians 1:27

O God, help me to dare to believe the incredible truth that you could live in me, and live there out of choice, out of preference. Help me realize that whether I understand or not, you love me, are present to me, live in me, dwell in me, call me, save me. You and I are in all truth One Spirit.

—Thomas Merton  
*The Monastic Journey*

## THE SPIRIT IS AT WORK

Wednesday, Week 3 — John 3:8

O God, help us find where your spirit is lively right now, giving life and creating life. Help us find you in a myriad of ways every day of our lives, living life intensely, passionately, with our eyes wide open to the pain and division in our world—yet hopefully, joyfully and lovingly because all life is holy.

—Anne Rowthorn  
*Your Daily Life Is Your Temple*



## TRANSFORM OUR HEARTS

Thursday, Week 3 — Ezekiel 11:19

Spirit of Love, transform our hearts of stone to hearts of flesh and tender compassion. May our world become a haven of peace. Teach each one of us that the greatness of life comes not in acquiring, but in dispossessing and in sharing: not in stifling life, but in giving life.

—Jean Vanier  
*Eruption to Hope*

## GOD DWELLS WITHIN

Friday, Week 3 —1 Corinthians 3:16

Jesus, make me more aware of your forgiving presence in my life. Let me recognize you in the depth of my heart where you dwell and heal me. Let me experience you in that center of my being from which you want to teach and guide me. Let me know you as my loving brother who holds nothing—not even my worst sins against me, but who wants to touch me in a gentle embrace.

—Henri J. M. Nouwen  
*A Cry for Mercy*

## LOOK FOR THE LORD

Saturday, Week 3 — Isaiah 55:6

O God, as Christmas draws near, let us not forget your nearness as we rush around with many last-minute

preparations. Help us slow down and look for signs of your nearness as we complete Christmas preparations and enter into the joy of the season.

—Joyce Rupp  
*Inviting God In*

## PUT ON CHRIST

Fourth Sunday of Advent — Colossians 3:12

O God, you call us to become icons of Christ, to reflect him, and even more to incarnate him in our lives, to clothe our lives with him, so that others can see him in us, touch him in us, recognize him in us and so proclaim the tremendous, tender, compassionate, gentle, extraordinary, explosive, revolutionary law of Christ's love.

—Catherine de Hueck Doherty  
*The Gospel without Compromise*

## BE MY WITNESSES

Monday, Christmas Week — Acts 1:8

Let us celebrate the coming and indeed the presence of Christ in our world. Let us witness to his presence even in the midst of all its inscrutable problems and tragedies. Let us receive the light of the newborn Savior by faith, in order to manifest it by our witness in common praise and by the works of our charity towards one another.

—Thomas Merton  
*Seasons of Celebration*

## SEEK PEACE

Tuesday, Christmas Week — 1 Peter 3:11

O God, instill in our hearts the vision of peace, the strength of justice and the joy of fellowship. Grant insight and strength so that we may always respond to hatred with love, to injustice with total dedication to justice, to need with the sharing of self, and to war with peace.

—Pope John Paul II

## A SELF-OFFERING

Wednesday, Christmas Week — Romans 12:1

O God, we offer you our hearts, like bread and wine, in order that they may be transubstantiated into Christ's love, that he may be born in them, that they may become "God-manly" hearts, and that he may give these hearts of ours as food for the world, so that in this way we may be one with him, not so that we should live anew but so that Christ should live in us, becoming incarnate in our flesh. Then truly in all ways Christ will be in all.

—Mother Maria Skobtsova  
*Essential Writings*

## ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Thursday, Christmas Week — 1 John 3:2

O God, open our eyes to see each one's real, true identity—that this one is not a white or black, Hindu,

Buddhist, Christian, Muslim or Jew, but a brother, a sister, and treat each other as such. Help us recognize our common humanity, that we do belong together, as members of one family, the human family, Your family.

—Desmond Tutu  
*God Has a Dream*



## HELP FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT

Friday, Christmas Week — John 14:17

Jesus, if you want to lead us on difficult paths, then at least send us the Holy Spirit of faithfulness, steadfastness and perseverance, so we can go forward with blind confidence, holding to our way and remaining true to the resolutions which we choose when your light showed us the path and your joy enlarged our heart.

—Karl Rahner, SJ  
*Prayers for a Lifetime*

## LEARNING FROM THE CHRIST CHILD

Saturday, Christmas Week — Isaiah 9:6-7

O God, help us to realize that Christmas itself, the birth of the Christ child, is the call to recognize the significance of smallness: to realize what each of us can and must become if we are ever to be fully human. Then, maybe we will come to understand the real miracle of Christmas: Jesus came to us as a child so that we might come to understand not only that nothing we do is insignificant but that every small thing we do has within it the power to change the world.

—Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB  
*Becoming Fully Human*



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# CHRIST STILL LIVES AMONG US

Christmas Day — John 1:14

Jesus, we have been created in your image, to love and be loved, and then you have become human to make it possible for us to love as you loved us. You make yourself the hungry one—the naked one—the homeless one—the sick one—the imprisoned one—the lonely one—the unwanted one—and you say: You did it to me. You are hungry for our love. Help us hunger always for your love.

—St. Mother Teresa

