

COME

Be with Us!



PRAYING THROUGH ADVENT
WITH THE SAINTS

INTRODUCTION

During Advent we once again are asked to prepare a way for God to come to be with us in our hearts, in our homes, in our workplace and our world. We are constantly reminded of God's surprising desire to be with us in the person of Jesus—our “Emmanuel, which means God is with us” (Mt 1:23). Advent is a time for us to seek greater contact with Jesus through our prayer. When we take the time each day to pay attention to the many ways that Jesus is already with us, then like the two travelers to Emmaus on that first Easter, we invite him to “stay with us” (Lk 24:29) so we can recognize him and respond with our love and service.

In this booklet we have collected prayers from several saints who have responded to Christ's presence in their lives. We hope that their prayers will provide encouragement for you to take time in your day to spend some quiet moments with God during this Advent season. Each brief prayer also includes a helpful reference to a Bible verse that is related to the theme of the prayer. In this way you will gradually open your heart to welcome God who will gladly come to be with you throughout the day.

—Steve Mueller, Editor

STAY WITH ME

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT — HOSEA 6:3

It is getting late and death approaches. I fear the darkness, the temptations, the dryness, the cross, the sorrows. O how I need you, my Jesus, in this night of exile! Stay with me today, Jesus, in life with all its dangers, I need you. *Amen.*

—St. Padre Pio

“I CALL YOU FRIENDS”

MONDAY, WEEK 1 — JOHN 15:15

Jesus, what a true friend you are, and how powerful! For when you wish to be with us, you can be, and you always wish it, if only we will receive you. May you be blessed forever, Lord, for offering your hand of love in my darkest, most lonely moments, for loving me more than I love myself and for putting up with such a stubborn soul as mine. *Amen.*



—St. Teresa of Avila

SHINE THROUGH US

TUESDAY, WEEK 1 — MATTHEW 5:16

Jesus, penetrate and possess our whole being so utterly that our lives may only be a radiance of yours. Shine through us, and be so in us that every soul we come in

contact with may feel your presence in our soul. Let them look up and see no longer us, but only you. Stay with us and then we shall begin to shine as you shine and to be a light to others. *Amen.*

—St. John Henry Cardinal Newman

DO NOT FEAR!

WEDNESDAY, WEEK 1 — ISAIAH 41:10

O Master, stay and do not leave me alone, so that my enemies, arriving unexpectedly, may find you living within me and that they may take flight, in defeat, powerless against me, seeing you, O more powerful than everything, installed interiorly in the home of my poor soul. *Amen.*

—St. Symeon the New Theologian

“I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS”

THURSDAY, WEEK 1 — MATTHEW 28:20



Lord Jesus, who was born for us in a stable, lived for us a life of pain and sorrow, and died for us upon a cross; leave us not, forsake us not. We thirst for you, fountain of living water. Our days pass quickly along, soon all will be consummated for us. To your hands we commend our spirits, now and forever. *Amen.*

—St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

COMFORT US, O LORD

FRIDAY, WEEK 1 — ISAIAH 40:1.

Eternal God, the refuge of all your children, in our weakness, you are our strength, in our darkness, you are our light, in our sorrow, you are our comfort and peace. May we always live in your presence, and serve you in our daily lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

—St. Boniface

YOUR WORKS ARE WONDERFUL

SATURDAY, WEEK 1 — PSALM 139:14

I adore you, Lord and Creator, for all the works of your hands. And although you have hidden yourself and concealed your beauty, my eye, enlightened by faith, reaches you and my soul recognizes its creator, its highest good, and my heart is completely immersed in a prayer of adoration. *Amen.*



—St. Faustina Kowalska

THE MYSTERY IS CHRIST IN US

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT — COLOSSIANS 1:26-28

Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me, Christ beneath

me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger. *Amen.*

—St. Patrick

GIVE ME WISDOM

MONDAY, WEEK 2 — 1 KINGS 3:10-12

Lord, I ask you not for gold, nor for silver, nor for jewels, but only that you would give me wisdom to be with me, to work with me, to act in me, to speak in me, to order all my thoughts and words and deeds and plans according to your will and to the glory of your name. *Amen.*

—St. Aelred of Rievaulx

I GIVE MYSELF TO YOU

TUESDAY, WEEK 2 — PSALM 141:2



O God, I give my will entirely to you, so that it no longer belongs to me. Henceforth, I must be careful to let nothing proceed from my heart that would be unworthy of you. I must exert constant vigilance over my will to avoid taking away from you what is not truly yours. *Amen.*

—St. Louise de Marillac

HOLY SPIRIT, ENLIVEN ME

WEDNESDAY, WEEK 2 — ROMANS 5:5

O Holy Spirit, come and take up your abode in my heart. Purify and cleanse me from all sin, and sanctify my soul. Make me truly humble and resigned, that I may be pleasing to you, and that you might abide with me forever. *Amen.*

—St. Antiochus

REMEMBER THE LORD'S GIFTS

THURSDAY, WEEK 2 — PSALM 103:2

O Jesus! on this day, you have fulfilled all my desires. From now on, near the eucharist, I shall be able to sacrifice myself in silence, to wait for heaven in peace, keeping myself open to the rays of the divine host, In this furnace of love, I shall be consumed, and like a seraphim, Lord, I shall love you. *Amen.*



—St. Thérèse of Lisieux

BLESS US, HEAL US, BE WITHIN US

FRIDAY, WEEK 2 — SIRACH 34:19-20

May God the Father who made us bless us. May God the Son send his healing among us. May God the Holy Spirit move within us and give us eyes to see with, ears to hear with, and hands that your work might be done.

May we walk and preach the word of God to all. May the angel of peace watch over us and lead us at last by God's grace to the kingdom. *Amen.*

—St. Dominic

SEEK THE LORD!

SATURDAY, WEEK 2 — PSALM 105:4



Gracious and holy God, give us wisdom to perceive you, intelligence to understand you, diligence to seek you, patience to wait for you, eyes to behold you, a heart to meditate on you, and a life to proclaim you; through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

—St. Benedict

JESUS, WE WORSHIP YOU

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT — HEBREWS 13:8

Jesus Christ, the love that gives love. You are higher than the highest star; you are deeper than the deepest sea; you cherish us as your own family; you embrace us as your own spouse; you rule over us as your own subjects; you welcome us as your dearest friends. Let all the world worship you! *Amen.*

—St. Hildegard of Bingen

YOUR KINGDOM COME!

MONDAY, WEEK 3 — MATTHEW 5:9-10

Lord, God of peace, help us to replace hatred with love, diffidence with understanding, unconcern with care. Open yet more our hearts to the needs of all our brothers and sisters, so that we may be better able to build a true peace. For the people of every race, of every tongue—may your kingdom come: your kingdom of justice, of peace, of love; and may the earth be filled with your glory. *Amen.*

—Pope St. Paul VI

HELP ME DRAW CLOSER

TUESDAY, WEEK 3 — JOHN 13:23

Permit me, divine Jesus, to come closer to you, that my whole soul may do homage to the greatness of your majesty; that my heart, with its tenderest affections, may acknowledge your infinite love; that my memory may dwell on the admirable mysteries here renewed every day, and that the sacrifice of my whole being may accompany you. *Amen.*



—St. Clare of Assisi

HAVE MERCY!

WEDNESDAY, WEEK 3 — LUKE 1:49-52



O God, origin of creation, open our eyes to know you and place our hope in you, who lift up the humble and lay low the mighty. Help us and rescue all those who are in trouble, have mercy on the lowly, lift up those who have fallen, reveal yourself to the needy, feed the hungry, give power to the weak and encourage the faint-hearted. *Amen.*

—Pope St. Clement I

YOU ALONE!

THURSDAY, WEEK 3 — PSALM 86:10

Jesus, grant that my mind may not seek to know anything but you, that my heart may have no longings or desires but to love you. When I am obliged to take some comfort, I shall take care to see that it be pleasing to your heart. All this I intend to do to unite myself to you in every action of the day. *Amen.*

—St. Margaret Mary Alacoque

ENLIGHTEN US

FRIDAY, WEEK 3 — SIRACH 6:37

Open our hearts, O Lord, and enlighten our minds by the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may seek what

is well-pleasing to your will; and so order our doings after your commandments, that we may be found fit to enter into your everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

—St. Bede the Venerable

SPIRIT OF TRUTH, GUIDE US

SATURDAY, WEEK 3 — JOHN 16:13

Spirit of truth, you are the reward to the saints, the comforter of souls, light in the darkness, riches to the poor, treasure to lovers, food for the hungry, comfort to the wanderer. To sum up, you are the one in whom all treasures are contained. *Amen.*

—St. Mary Magdalene de’Pazzi

“BE MY WITNESSES”

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT — ACTS 1:8

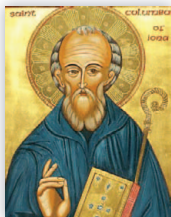
God, here I am, at your disposal, your child. Use me to continue your loving the world, by giving Jesus to me and through me, to each other and to the world. Let us pray for each other that we allow Jesus to love in us and through us with the love with which his Father loves us. *Amen.*



—St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta

WALK WITH US

MONDAY, CHRISTMAS WEEK — PSALM 32:8



Alone with none but you, my God I journey on my way. What need I fear, when you are near, O king of night and day? More safe am I within your hand than if a host did round me stand. Be a bright flame before me, a guiding star above me, a smooth path beneath me, a kindly shepherd behind me, today—to-night—and forever. *Amen.*

—St. Columba

BUSY ABOUT MANY THINGS

TUESDAY, CHRISTMAS WEEK — LUKE 10:40-42

How is it, my God, that you have given me this hectic busy life when I have so little time to enjoy your presence. I know that you are constantly beside me, yet I am usually so busy that I ignore you. If you want me to remain so busy, please force me to think about and love you even in the midst of such hectic activity. *Amen.*

—St. Teresa of Avila

GIVE US YOUR PEACE

WEDNESDAY, CHRISTMAS WEEK — JOHN 14:27

Lord Jesus Christ, the prince of peace, who are yourself our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, “Peace

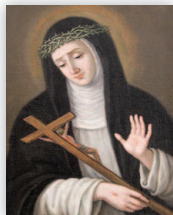
to you,” grant us peace. Make all men and women witnesses of truth, justice, and brotherly love. Banish from their hearts whatever might endanger peace. Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace. May all peoples of the earth become brothers and sisters. May longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all. *Amen.*

—Pope St. John XXIII

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

THURSDAY, CHRISTMAS WEEK — JOHN 1:14

O Lord Jesus Christ, make me worthy to understand the profound mystery of your holy incarnation, which you have worked for our sake and for our salvation. Truly there is nothing so great and wonderful as this, that you, my God, should become a creature so that we could become like God. You have humbled yourself and made yourself small, that we might be made mighty. Blessed are you, O Lord, who came to earth as one of us. *Amen.*



—St. Angela of Foligno

COME, BE WITH US

FRIDAY CHRISTMAS WEEK — REV 22:20

Let your goodness, Lord, appear to us, so that we, made in your image, conform ourselves to it. By our own strength we cannot imitate your majesty, power and wonder; nor is it fitting for us to try. But your mercy reaches from the heavens, through the clouds, to the earth below. You have come to us as a small child, but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of eternal love. Caress us with your tiny hands, embrace us with your tiny arms, and pierce our hearts with your soft, sweet cries. *Amen.*

—St. Bernard of Clairvaux

REJOICE, OUR SAVIOR IS BORN!

SATURDAY CHRISTMAS WEEK — ISAIAH 9:5



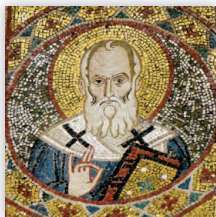
Let the just rejoice, for their justifier is born. Let the sick and infirm rejoice, for their savior is born. Let the captives rejoice, for their redeemer is born. Let slaves rejoice, for their master is born. Let free persons rejoice, for their liberator is born. Let all Christians rejoice, for Jesus Christ is born. *Amen.*

—St. Augustine

OUR JOY IS NOW FULL

CHRISTMAS DAY — LK 2:10-14

Christ is born, let us glorify him!
Christ from heaven, let us go out
to meet him! Christ on earth, let
us exult him! Sing to the Lord all
the whole earth. Let the heavens
rejoice, and let the earth be glad,
for him who is of heaven and then
of earth: Christ in the flesh. Let us rejoice with trem-
bling and with joy—with trembling because of our
sins, with joy because of our hope. *Amen.*



—St. Gregory Nazianzen

O God, who wonderfully created the dignity
of human nature and still more wonderfully
restored it, grant, we pray, that we may share
in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself
to share in our humanity. Who lives and reigns
with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

—*The Roman Missal*

OUR DAILY ADVENT PRAYER

ISAIAH'S SONG — ISAIAH 9:1-6

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
Upon those who lived in a land of gloom
a light has shone.
You have brought them abundant joy
and great rejoicing;
They rejoice before you as people rejoice at harvest,
as they exult when dividing the spoils.
For the yoke that burdened them,
the pole on their shoulder,
The rod of their taskmaster,
you have smashed, as on the day of Midian.
For every boot that tramped in battle,
every cloak rolled in blood,
will be burned as fuel for fire.
For a child is born to us, a son is given to us;
upon his shoulder dominion rests.
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.
His dominion is vast and forever peaceful,
Upon David's throne, and over his kingdom,
which he confirms and sustains
By judgment and justice, both now and forever.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!