

Morning Prayer Daily During Advent

The meaning is in the waiting (R S Thomas)

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Reveal among us the light of your presence
that we may behold your power and glory.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
In your tender compassion
the dawn from on high is breaking upon us
to dispel the lingering shadows of night.
As we look for your coming among us this day,
open our eyes to behold your presence
and strengthen our hands to do your will,
that the world may rejoice and give you praise.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

An Advent hymn or chant may be sung

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart. (*Taizé Community*)

Psalmody – this is related to the day of the week. Those on the south side begin the odd verses, those on the north the even verses. A corporate pause is made at the diamond. This should be long enough to think “Jesus Christ” before moving on. There is no pause between verses.

Monday – Psalm 13

1 How long will you forget me, O Lord; for ever? ◆

How long will you hide your face from me?

2 How long shall I have anguish in my soul
and grief in my heart, day after day? ◆

How long shall my enemy triumph over me?

3 Look upon me and answer, O Lord my God; ◆
lighten my eyes, lest I sleep in death;

4 Lest my enemy say, ‘I have prevailed against him,’ ◆
and my foes rejoice that I have fallen.

5 But I put my trust in your steadfast love; ◆
my heart will rejoice in your salvation.

6 I will sing to the Lord, ◆
for he has dealt so bountifully with me.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**



Rooted in God. Rooted in Community

Tuesday – Psalm 14

- 1 The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.' ♦
Corrupt are they, and abominable in their wickedness;
there is no one that does good.
- 2 The Lord has looked down from heaven
upon the children of earth, ♦
to see if there is anyone who is wise
and seeks after God.
- 3 But every one has turned back;
all alike have become corrupt: ♦
there is none that does good; no, not one.
- 4 Have they no knowledge, those evildoers, ♦
who eat up my people as if they ate bread
and do not call upon the Lord?
- 5 There shall they be in great fear; ♦
for God is in the company of the righteous.
- 6 Though they would confound the counsel of the poor, ♦
yet the Lord shall be their refuge.
- 7 O that Israel's salvation would come out of Zion! ♦
When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people,
then will Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Wednesday – Psalm 54

- 1 Save me, O God, by your name ♦
and vindicate me by your power.
- 2 Hear my prayer, O God; ♦
give heed to the words of my mouth.
- 3 For strangers have risen up against me,
and the ruthless seek after my life; ♦
they have not set God before them.
- 4 Behold, God is my helper; ♦
it is the Lord who upholds my life.
- 5 May evil rebound on those who lie in wait for me; ♦
destroy them in your faithfulness.
- 6 An offering of a free heart will I give you ♦
and praise your name, O Lord, for it is gracious.
- 7 For he has delivered me out of all my trouble, ♦
and my eye has seen the downfall of my enemies.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Thursday – Psalm 70

- 1 O God, make speed to save me; ♦
O Lord, make haste to help me.
- 2 Let those who seek my life
be put to shame and confusion; ♦
let them be turned back and disgraced
who wish me evil.
- 3 Let those who mock and deride me ♦
turn back because of their shame.
- 4 But let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; ♦
let those who love your salvation say always, 'Great is the Lord!'
- 5 As for me, I am poor and needy; ♦
come to me quickly, O God.
- 6 You are my help and my deliverer; ♦
O Lord, do not delay.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Friday – Psalm 75

- 1 We give you thanks, O God, we give you thanks, ♦
for your name is near, as your wonderful deeds declare.
- 2 'I will seize the appointed time; ♦
I, the Lord, will judge with equity.
- 3 'Though the earth reels and all that dwell in her, ♦
it is I that hold her pillars steady.
- 4 'To the boasters I say, "Boast no longer," ♦
and to the wicked, "Do not lift up your horn.
- 5 "'Do not lift up your horn on high; ♦
do not speak with a stiff neck.'"
- 6 For neither from the east nor from the west, ♦
nor yet from the wilderness comes exaltation.
- 7 But God alone is judge; ♦
he puts down one and raises up another.
- 8 For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup, ♦
well mixed and full of foaming wine.
- 9 He pours it out for all the wicked of the earth; ♦
they shall drink it, and drain the dregs.
- 10 But I will rejoice for ever ♦
and make music to the God of Jacob.
- 11 All the horns of the wicked will I break, ♦
but the horns of the righteous shall be exalted.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Saturday – Psalm 85

- 1 Lord, you were gracious to your land; ♦
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- 2 You forgave the offence of your people ♦
and covered all their sins.
- 3 You laid aside all your fury ♦
and turned from your wrathful indignation.
- 4 Restore us again, O God our Saviour, ♦
and let your anger cease from us.
- 5 Will you be displeased with us for ever? ♦
Will you stretch out your wrath from one generation to another?
- 6 Will you not give us life again, ♦
that your people may rejoice in you?
- 7 Show us your mercy, O Lord, ♦
and grant us your salvation.
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God will say, ♦
for he shall speak peace to his people and to the faithful,
that they turn not again to folly.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear him, ♦
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth are met together, ♦
righteousness and peace have kissed each other;
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth ♦
and righteousness look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed give all that is good, ♦
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him ♦
and direct his steps in the way.

***Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.***

Scripture Reading – these vary by day of the week

Monday

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. (Isaiah 11.1–4)

Tuesday

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths

straight.”” John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.
(Mark 1.1–5)

Wednesday

Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them.’ (Luke 12.35–37)

Thursday

Jesus said to Peter, James, John and Andrew, ‘It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’
(Mark 13.34-end)

Friday

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. (Romans 13.11-end)

Saturday

The angel said to Mary, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her. (Luke 1.35,38)

Reflection – The worship leader will read a reflection, or we may listen to music, or contemplate a piece of art or an object in the church. The reflection helps us spend time with God and together. If you are following at home or work this might be a good time to read a few pages from an Advent book of spiritual readings. See the website for suggestions. The reflection concludes with this responsory:

Now it is time to awake out of sleep,
for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.
Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed,
for the night is far spent.
Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light,
for the day is at hand.
Put on the Lord Jesus Christ
and make no provision for the flesh,
for the night is far spent and the day is at hand.
from Romans 13

Gospel Cantic – Benedictus

From Advent Sunday until 16 December:

Refrain:

**Look towards the east, O Jerusalem,
and see the glory that is coming from God.**

From 17 December until Christmas Eve:

Refrain:

**Like the sun in the morning sky,
the Saviour of the world will dawn;
like rain upon the meadows,
the Christ will come down upon us.**

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ◆
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ◆
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old ◆
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors, ◆
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ◆
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear, ◆
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ◆
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation ◆
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God ◆
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ◆
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

From Advent Sunday until 16 December:

**All Look towards the east, O Jerusalem,
and see the glory that is coming from God.**

From 17 December until Christmas Eve:

**All Like the sun in the morning sky,
the Saviour of the world will dawn;
like rain upon the meadows,
the Christ will come down upon us.**

Prayers

Free prayer may be offered, or this litany may be used.

Watchful at all times,
let us pray for strength to stand with confidence
before our Maker and Redeemer.
That God may bring in his kingdom with justice and mercy,
let us pray to the Lord: ***Come Lord Jesus.***

That God may establish among the nations
his sceptre of righteousness,
let us pray to the Lord: ***Come Lord Jesus.***

That we may seek Christ in the scriptures
and recognize him in the breaking of the bread,
let us pray to the Lord: ***Come Lord Jesus.***

That God may bind up the brokenhearted,
restore the sick
and raise up all who have fallen,
let us pray to the Lord: ***Come Lord Jesus.***

That the light of God's coming may dawn
on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death,
let us pray to the Lord: ***Come Lord Jesus.***

That, with all the saints in light,
we may shine forth as lights for the world,
let us pray to the Lord: ***Come Lord Jesus.***

Let us commend the world, which Christ will judge,
to the mercy and protection of God.

The prayers always conclude with this collect or the alternative collect on page 8:

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

Alternative collect:

Eternal God,
as Mary waited for the birth of your Son,
so we wait for his coming in glory;
bring us through the birth pangs of this present age
to see, with her, our great salvation
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's prayer is said.

Awaiting his coming in glory,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

May the Lord, when he comes,
find us watching and waiting.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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