



Monday of First Week of Advent, 2018

Lord, open my lips...*and my mouth shall declare your praise.*

Opening Prayer:

Keep us alert, we pray, O Lord our God,
as we await the advent of Christ your Son,
so that when he comes and knocks
he may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in his praise.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

This is what Isaiah, son of Amoz,
saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
In days to come,
The mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest mountain
and raised above the hills.
All nations shall stream toward it;
many peoples shall come and say:
"Come, let us climb the LORD's mountain,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
That he may instruct us in his ways,
and we may walk in his paths."
For from Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations,
and impose terms on many peoples.
They shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
One nation shall not raise the sword against another,
nor shall they train for war again.
O house of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the LORD!



Reflection:

As we begin this journey of Advent, we rally ourselves
to turn to the Lord with great hope.
In the midst of challenges in our lives,
and in the midst of the violence in the world around us,
we desire to spend this day in anticipation of the graces
our God desires to give us.
"They shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
one nation shall not raise the sword against another,
nor shall they train for war again." *Isaiah 2*



Intercessions:

Christ the Lord, Son of the living God, light from light,
leads us into the light and reveals his holiness.

With confidence, let us make our prayer: ***Come, Lord Jesus!***

Light that never fades, dispel the mists about us, and awaken our faith from sleep... ***Come, Lord Jesus!***

Guard us from all harm today, and may your glory fill us with joy... ***Come, Lord Jesus!***

Give us unfailing gentleness at all times, and toward everyone we meet... ***Come, Lord Jesus!***

Come to create a new earth for us, where there will be justice and peace... ***Come, Lord Jesus!***

For what else shall we pray...?

Lord's Prayer:

Gathering our prayers together let us pray in the words that Jesus gave us.

Closing Prayer:

Loving God, we sense that all is your creation
and everything, and all of us,
are being drawn back toward your loving heart.

Help us to be people of peace,
to speak about it in an uneasy world,
and to live it among the people
you have put into our lives every day.

Light in us a desire to prepare for your coming
to stand in the darkness, waiting, eager and filled with joy.

May the Lord bless us,
protect us from all evil
and bring us to everlasting life.

AMEN.



Monday Second Week of Advent, 2018

Lord, open my lips . . . *and my mouth shall declare your praise.*

Opening Prayer:

May our prayer rise before you, we pray, O Lord,
that, with purity unblemished,
we, your servants, may come to celebrate the great mystery
of the Incarnation of your Only Begotten Son.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Reading: Isaiah 25:1-10

The desert and the parched land will exult;
the steppe will rejoice and bloom.

They will bloom with abundant flowers,
and rejoice with joyful song.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to them,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;
They will see the glory of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the hands that are feeble,
make firm the knees that are weak,
Say to those whose hearts are frightened:
Be strong, fear not!

Here is your God,
he comes with vindication;
With divine recompense
he comes to save you.

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened,
the ears of the deaf be cleared;

Then will the lame leap like a stag,
then the tongue of the mute will sing.

Streams will burst forth in the desert,
and rivers in the steppe.

The burning sands will become pools,
and the thirsty ground, springs of water;
The abode where jackals lurk
will be a marsh for the reed and papyrus.

A highway will be there,
called the holy way;
No one unclean may pass over it,
nor fools go astray on it.
No lion will be there,



nor beast of prey go up to be met upon it.
It is for those with a journey to make,
and on it the redeemed will walk.

Those whom the Lord has ransomed will
return
and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy;
They will meet with joy and gladness,
sorrow and mourning will flee.



Reflection:

Our God will come to save us! What an incredible promise!
Each of these days uses images to help us to imagine and become excited about the ways our God has tried to prepare us to be ready for the healing and restoration and love that is offered us in Jesus.

For all in us that is feeble or weak or frightened, we can simply listen to these words:

*Strengthen the hands that are feeble,
make firm the knees that are weak,
Say to those whose hearts are frightened:
Be strong, fear not!
Here is your God,
he comes with vindication;
With divine recompense
he comes to save you. (Isaiah 35)*

Intercessions:

To Christ our Redeemer, who will come again to free from the power of death all those who return to him, let us humbly pray: ***Come, Lord Jesus!***

As we proclaim your coming, Lord, cleanse our hearts of every vain desire... ***Come, Lord Jesus!***

Lord, may the Church which you founded, proclaim your greatness to all people... ***Come, Lord Jesus!***

Your law is a light to our eyes, let it protect those who trust in you... ***Come, Lord Jesus!***

You allow the joys of your coming to be foretold to us by your Church, may we receive you with eager devotion... ***Come, Lord Jesus!***

For what else shall we pray...?

Lord's Prayer:

Gathering our prayers together let us pray in the words that Jesus gave us.

Closing Prayer:

God of Strength, you offer to make firm the knees that are weak.
You offer us strength through the promise of your Son's coming and knowing that he saves us.
Give us the humility to ask for your help and open our hearts to accept your healing and love in our lives.

May the Lord bless us,
protect us from all evil
and bring us to everlasting life.

AMEN.



Monday Third Week of Advent, 2018

Lord, open my lips . . . *and my mouth shall declare your praise.*

Opening Prayer:

Incline a merciful ear to our cry,
we pray, O Lord,
and casting light on the darkness of our hearts,
visit us with the grace of your Son.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Reading 1 Jeremiah 23:5-8

Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD,
when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David;
As king he shall reign and govern wisely,
he shall do what is just and right in the land.
In his days Judah shall be saved,
Israel shall dwell in security.
This is the name they give him:
"The LORD our justice."
Therefore, the days will come, says the LORD,
when they shall no longer say, "As the LORD lives,
who brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt";
but rather, "As the LORD lives,
who brought the descendants of the house of Israel
up from the land of the north"—
and from all the lands to which I banished them;
they shall again live on their own land.



Reflection:

*A star shall advance from Jacob,
and a staff shall rise from Israel.*

The longing of God's people led to a hope
that God would save them.
God would replace their corrupt kings
and send them a savior.
May our longing these days bring us closer
to our God's desire to save us,
to shine the Light of Christ
on the darkness of our sin.

*Your ways, O Lord, make known to me;
teach me your paths,
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my savior. (Psalm 25)*



Intercessions:

Christ the Lord, Son of the living God, light from light, leads us into the light and reveals his holiness. With confidence, let us make our prayer: ***Come, Lord Jesus!***

Light that never fades, dispel the mists about us, awaken our faith from sleep... ***Come, Lord Jesus!***

Guard us from all harm today, may your glory fill us with joy... ***Come, Lord Jesus!***

Give us unfailing gentleness at all times, toward everyone we meet... ***Come, Lord Jesus!***

Come to create a new earth for us, where there will be justice and peace... ***Come, Lord Jesus!***

O Lord and Ruler of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the flame of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai, come, and redeem us with outstretched arms... ***Come, Lord Jesus!***

For what else shall we pray...?

Lord's Prayer:

Gathering our prayers together let us pray in the words that Jesus gave us.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, God, you are faithful in your love for us.

Help us to see with a new vision and great hope,

Make our hearts enraptured with your love.

We pray to you and feel the power of your coming,

like a light on the path before us, guiding us to return your love even more.

Help us raise our voices with new courage and deep joy

to give you praise with our lives.

“O” Antiphon:

O Wisdom,

O Holy Word of God,

You govern all creation with your strong, yet tender care.

Come, and show your people the way to salvation.

May the Lord bless us,

protect us from all evil

and bring us to everlasting life.

AMEN.