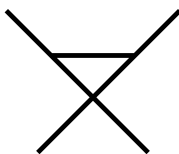
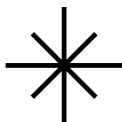


DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, & EPIPHANY 2025



REDEEMER LONGMONT DAILY PRAYER GUIDE

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2025

For unto us a child is born,
To us a son is given;
And the government will be on His shoulder,
And His name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

ISAIAH 9:6

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INTRODUCTION

This prayer guide is for those who long to draw near to God. Prayer and scripture are the most foundational ways to know and enjoy God, and yet it can feel challenging—even for those who've prayed for years.

Perhaps using a prayer guide seems inauthentic and limiting. But consider this: if you're accustomed to spontaneous prayer, you may find yourself repeating the same phrases, praying for the same topics, or searching for words to express what's in your heart. Guided prayer is a friend to help with each of those. It isn't here to limit your conversation with God; rather, it's here to expand it. With words rooted in Scripture and shared by Christians through the ages, these prayers and scriptures invite you into a fuller and richer way to engage with God.

Why a Prayer Guide?

1. It helps us pray regularly. Prayer can be challenging, especially when we're overwhelmed or unsure where to begin. This guide provides a starting point, gently leading you into God's presence each day. Whether you have just a few minutes or a longer time to linger, you'll find direction here that helps you connect with God meaningfully, right where you are.

2. It helps us pray biblically. These prayers and readings are rooted in the Bible, a foundation that grounds us in truth and reminds us of God's grace. Every day starts with reading the Psalms, because they offer words for every experience—whether joy or sorrow, confidence or fear, certainty or confusion. It's a simple reminder that we don't have to come “put together” to pray; rather, we bring our whole selves to God, just as we are. No emotions or experiences are off limits for prayer.

3. It helps us pray communally. By using this guide, we're not only seeking God individually but as a church community aiming to follow Jesus here in Colorado. Together, we're following this same rhythm of prayer each day, joining these words and scriptures wherever we are. We're not alone on this path; we're part of the body of Christ, unified in worship and drawn together by His Spirit.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is meant to serve you, not for you to serve it. Use it in whatever way best leads you to enjoy God. Some days you may follow it closely; on others, you may spend more time on just one part. Remember, liturgies are never laws. They simply make it easier to talk with God and learn about His character. There's no pressure to use this, and nothing wrong if you skip pieces or adjust it.

That said, we hope you grow to value each element. They've been used by Christians across cultures and centuries as tried and true ways to believe the gospel and follow Jesus. And what's most remarkable is how the Holy Spirit uses this ancient practice to breathe new life and perspective into our current cultural context as well as our personal stories. Here's an overview of each part:

Invitation to Worship:

Each day begins with an invitation to worship, setting the tone and purpose of the time spent with God. These words are taken directly from Scripture, reminding us that we enter God's presence at His invitation. And the amazing grace is this: He is always welcoming you.

The Psalm:

The Psalms are at the heart of knowing God. They have a unique way of giving voice to the full range of human experience—they express joy, grief, gratitude, disappointment, anger, depression, hope, and everything in between. Reading the Psalms daily helps us bring our honest emotions before God, knowing we're not alone in what we feel and that God can handle anything we bring to him. They ground us in His love and faithfulness while helping us see our own lives through the lens of His covenant love.

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving:

This is a moment to pause and offer your personal words of praise and thanks to God. Speak it aloud or silently. There's no set format. This is simply a moment to delight in who God is and all He's done.

Readings:

Each day's reading comes from either the Old or New Testament, drawing from the story of redemption that unfolds throughout Scripture. These readings invite us to hear from God's Word directly, grounding us in His truth and helping us see the bigger story of His love and faithfulness.

In Advent, the readings set the stage for Christ's first and second coming. Just like Israel longed for and anticipated the coming of Jesus, we too long

for and anticipate the day he comes again to make all things good and new. In Christmastide (the 12 days of Christmas), the readings show how the incarnation gives hope to the whole world. Finally, on Epiphany, we remember the mission of Jesus to reach the ends of the earth.

Prayers:

The prayers each day vary: sometimes you'll find prompted prayers for specific needs, other times there will be a moment of confession and assurance, or a pre-written collect from the church's tradition (many drawn from *The Book of Common Prayer*). These prayers give us words for times when we may not know how to pray, and they help us respond to God in a way that's fresh and meaningful.

The Lord's Prayer:

The Lord's Prayer is a gift from Jesus Himself, a model of prayer for all believers. Praying it each day centers us on God's kingdom, His will, and His provision. These words join us with Christians worldwide who have prayed them for centuries. The Lord's Prayer unites us, lifting our focus beyond ourselves to the purposes of God's kingdom. (The text is found in the appendix).

The Benediction:

Each day closes with a word of God's grace. This blessing reminds us God's presence as we go about the day, trusting that his goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives (Psalm 23).

A Note on Sundays

Sunday readings are kept intentionally simple since we also have our main gathering for worship. You'll find a Psalm—often one of the most beloved Psalms—paired with a short scripture and blessing. This simplicity is meant to compliment a day of sabbath rest for you.

A Note for Families

This guide can be a wonderful resource for family worship. Each section is brief and accessible, making it easy for children and adults alike to participate. Consider having different family members take turns reading the Scripture, leading in prayer, or reading the benediction. Family worship can be a special time for each person to encounter God's love and truth together, building rhythms of faith that everyone can carry forward.

ADVENT

*“Advent is the season that, when properly understood,
does not flinch from the darkness that stalks us all in this world.”*

— Fleming Rutledge

*“Advent is training in hope because this season
tells us that when things lie fallow they do not lie in waste.”*

—Tish Harrison Warren

Advent is the beginning of the church year, a season set aside to deepen our longing for Jesus. While the world rushes toward Christmas, Advent invites us into a sacred pause—a time to reflect on our need for God and His promise to come near. It’s a season of waiting, marked by both the joy of Christ’s first coming and the ache of a world awaiting His return.

This dual focus sets Advent apart. We look back to Christ’s birth as a vulnerable child and forward to His promised return as King bringing justice and restoration. In Advent, we bring our hopes and hurts before God, trusting that His light will break into our darkness and that His promises are true.

In this season, we learn to live in the tension between what has come and what we still long for. Advent teaches us to hope for God’s kingdom even as we feel the brokenness and hurt around us. It’s a time to slow down, to make space for prayer, stillness, and anticipation. And in this intentional interruption, we discover anew how the hope of Christ is being born anew into every sliver of darkness we feel — now in part, and one day in glorious fullness.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30

LONGING FOR GOD

Psalm 42

Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

Sabbath Prayer

May this day bring Sabbath rest to my heart and my home.
May God's image in me be restored,
and my imagination in God be re-storied.
May the gravity of material things be lightened,
and the relativity of time slow down.
May I know grace to embrace my own finite smallness
in the arms of God's infinite greatness.
May God's word feed me and his Spirit lead me
into the week and into the life to come.

(From Peter Grieg)

Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all. Amen.
— Revelation 22:21

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

ANTICIPATING RESTORATION

Invitation to Worship

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.
— Psalm 145:18

Psalm 80

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come among us with great might; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your abundant grace and mercy quickly help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way.
The Lord be with you all.
— 2 Thessalonians 3:16

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS

Invitation to Worship

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

— Isaiah 60:1

Psalm 27

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Prompted Prayer

- For attentiveness to God's presence in everyday life, drawing you closer to Him
- For those in your community who feel isolated or unseen
- For those around the world who have yet to experience God's love and kindness

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

— Numbers 6:24-25

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

PREPARING THE WAY

Invitation to Worship

Our soul waits for the Lord; he is our help and our shield.

— Psalm 33:20

Psalm 43

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

Confession

Merciful Lord, You save the humble and bring down the proud. I confess that I have become entangled with the cares of this world rather than abiding in the Son. I have stressed rather than trusted, fainted rather than hoped, and presumed rather than sought You. Forgive me, I pray, according to the richest mercies of Your grace in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Assurance of Grace

He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot.

You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. (Micah 7:19)

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

— Psalm 121:7-8

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

HOPE IN REDEMPTION

Invitation to Worship

Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God.

— Psalm 146:5

Psalm 25

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Romans 8:18-25

Prayers of Intercession

Written Prayer

Almighty and merciful God, in your goodness keep us from all things that may harm us, that we, being ready in both mind and body, may accomplish with free hearts those things which belong to your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

— Romans 15:13

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

PROMISE OF THE MESSIAH

Invitation to Worship

In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

— Psalm 16:11

Psalm 130

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Prompted Prayer

- For hearts that trust God's care and faithfulness, even in areas of uncertainty
- For those facing financial or relational struggles in this season
- For opportunities to share the love and hope of Jesus with those who are open

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Now may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you.

— 1 Thessalonians 3:12

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

JOYFUL ANTICIPATION

Invitation to Worship

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!
— Psalm 97:12

Psalm 33

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer for Sabbath

O God of peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and trust shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit, lift us, we pray, into your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
— Romans 16:20

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

REJOICE, GOD COMES

Psalm 34

Reading: Zechariah 9:9-10

Sabbath Prayer

May this day bring Sabbath rest to my heart and my home.

May God's image in me be restored,
and my imagination in God be re-storied.

May the gravity of material things be lightened,
and the relativity of time slow down.

May I know grace to embrace my own finite smallness
in the arms of God's infinite greatness.

May God's word feed me and his Spirit lead me
into the week and into the life to come.

(From Peter Grieg)

Benediction

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts
and your minds in Christ Jesus.

— Philippians 4:7

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

COMFORT FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

Invitation to Worship

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

— Psalm 145:8

Psalm 31

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer

O God, the eternal King, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

— 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

THE RIGHTEOUS KING

Invitation to Worship

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
— Psalm 27:1

Psalm 85

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Jeremiah 23:5-6

Prompted Prayer

- For humility to recognize where you need God's guidance and correction
- For families and individuals in your community seeking stability and peace
- For leaders in all spheres to act with wisdom, justice, and compassion

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The Lord bless you from Zion, he who made heaven and earth!
— Psalm 134:3

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

GOD'S GOOD NEWS

Invitation to Worship

Come and see what God has done: he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.

— Psalm 66:5

Psalm 40

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Confession

Merciful God, you have brought good news for all the earth, yet I confess that I am often slow to rejoice and share in your love. I have been preoccupied with myself, distracted by my own desires, and reluctant to carry your message of peace. Forgive me, Lord, for hearts that forget the joy of your salvation and hands that are hesitant to serve others in love. Renew me by your Spirit, that I may live as a messenger of your good news. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Assurance of Grace

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9) Thanks be to God for His unfailing mercy!

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ... to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

— Romans 16:25, 27

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

JOYFUL EXPECTATION

Invitation to Worship

Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing to his name, for it is pleasant!
— Psalm 135:3

Psalm 96

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Luke 1:5-25

Prayers of Intercession

Written Prayer

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
— 1 Thessalonians 5:23

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

THE COMING SAVIOR

Invitation to Worship

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.
— Psalm 34:18

Psalm 37

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Prayers of Intercession

Prompted Prayer

- For gratitude as you reflect on the ways God is at work in your life
- For those who feel burdened or weary during this season
- For those in your neighborhood or workplace to experience the hope of Christ

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
— 2 Corinthians 13:14

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

SONGS OF JOY

Invitation to Worship

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
— Psalm 124:8

Psalm 126

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Isaiah 12:1-6

Prayer for Sabbath

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.
— Jude 1:2

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

GOD DWELLS WITH US

Psalm 23

Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Sabbath Prayer

May this day bring Sabbath rest to my heart and my home.
May God's image in me be restored,
and my imagination in God be re-storied.
May the gravity of material things be lightened,
and the relativity of time slow down.
May I know grace to embrace my own finite smallness
in the arms of God's infinite greatness.
May God's word feed me and his Spirit lead me
into the week and into the life to come.

(From Peter Grieg)

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give
you peace.
— Numbers 6:24-26

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

HOPE OF A NEW DAY

Invitation to Worship

For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

— Psalm 36:9

Psalm 72

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Isaiah 60:1-3

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer

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.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

— Psalm 29:11

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

THE PEACE OF GOD

Invitation to Worship

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

— Psalm 121:8

Psalm 29

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Micah 5:2-5

Prompted Prayer

- For peace in your heart, especially in areas where you feel anxious or unsettled
- For those in your community who need relief from burdens or stress
- For peace across regions affected by violence, conflict, or division

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand. The Lord will keep you from all evil. — Psalm 121:5, 7

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

GOD'S COVENANT LOVE

Invitation to Worship

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.

— Psalm 24:1

Psalm 89

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Zechariah 2:10-13

Confession

Holy God, you have called me to walk in your light, yet I confess that I have often chosen the ways of darkness. I have allowed fears, distractions, and doubts to keep me from your truth. Forgive me for the times I have turned away from your peace, letting sin and self-interest cloud my vision of you. Lift my eyes to your light, that I may walk in your ways and reflect your peace in a world in need. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Assurance of Grace

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1) God's light has come to us, and in Christ we are forgiven.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think... to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

— Ephesians 3:20-21

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

THE LORD COMES SOON

Invitation to Worship

The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad.

— Psalm 126:3

Psalm 98

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

Prayers of Intercession

Written Prayer

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 forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you.

— 1 Thessalonians 3:11

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19

LIGHT BREAKING FORTH

Invitation to Worship

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, 'The Lord reigns!'

— 1 Chronicles 16:31

Psalm 36

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Isaiah 60:19-22

Prompted Prayer

- For attentiveness to God's guidance in unexpected places or through unexpected people
- For those experiencing depression or loneliness to feel supported and seen
- For eyes to see and hearts open to the needs of the poor and marginalized

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

— 2 Thessalonians 3:5

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20

LOVE MADE VISIBLE

Invitation to Worship

O taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

— Psalm 34:8

Psalm 45

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: John 1:1-18

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer for Sabbath

O God, the fountain of wisdom, whose will is good and gracious, and whose law is truth: We ask you to guide and bless our nation and its leaders, that they may enact laws pleasing in your sight, to the glory of your Name and the welfare of this people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy.

— Colossians 1:11

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Psalm 84

Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Sabbath Prayer

May this day bring Sabbath rest to my heart and my home.
May God's image in me be restored,
and my imagination in God be re-storied.
May the gravity of material things be lightened,
and the relativity of time slow down.
May I know grace to embrace my own finite smallness
in the arms of God's infinite greatness.
May God's word feed me and his Spirit lead me into the week and
into the life to come.

(From Peter Grieg)

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Now to the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and
glory forever and ever. Amen.
— 1 Timothy 1:17

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

THE NEARNESS OF SALVATION

Psalm 85:8-13

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer

O God, you call us to awaken and watch for the dawning of your salvation: stir our hearts by your Spirit, that we may put on the life of Christ and walk faithfully in your ways; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus.

— Romans 15:5

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23

THE GLORY OF JESUS

Invitation to Worship

The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!
— Psalm 97:1

Psalm 97

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Hebrews 1:1-4

Prompted Prayer

- For wonder and joy as you consider the gift of Christ's presence with us
- For families in your community to find hope and strength this season
- For people around the world who are searching for meaning to encounter Jesus

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness.
— Zephaniah 3:17

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24

JOY TO THE WORLD

Invitation to Worship

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!

— Luke 2:14

Psalm 98

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Isaiah 9:6-7

Prayers of Intercession

Confession

Loving Father, on the eve of the day remembering your greatest gift of all—your Son, Jesus—I confess that my heart often fails to receive the fullness of your love. I have allowed the cares of this world to distract me from the wonder of your presence. I confess my ingratitude and my tendency to overlook the beauty of Christ's coming. Forgive me, Lord, and renew in me a spirit of joy and gratitude, that I may welcome your Son with a heart filled with praise. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Assurance of Grace

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" (Luke 2:14)

May the peace of Christ fill our hearts, for in Him we are forgiven.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

— Jude 1:2

CHRISTMASTIDE

*"The Incarnation is the place...where hope contends with fear,
and joy in the Lord with sorrow at the world."*

— Fleming Rutledge

"Christ has taken on our humanity to make us partakers of His divinity."

— Athanasius of Alexandria

Christmastide begins on Christmas Day and extends for twelve days to Epiphany, turning our focus from waiting to celebration. In these days, we rejoice in the arrival of Jesus—the fulfillment of God's promise and the miracle of the Incarnation. At long last, God *has* drawn near, stepping into our world in flesh and blood.

Christmas is more than a single day—it's the beginning of a lifetime of drawing near to God, who first drew near to us. While the world rushes through Christmas, the church slows down to savor the gift of Jesus' birth—that the Maker of the Universe wants to be with you. In a season that can feel hurried or exhausting, may we pause, reflect, and rest in the joy that God has made a way to come and dwell with us.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

PRAISE FOR THE SAVIOR

Invitation to Worship

Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

— Psalm 96:9

Psalm 148

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: John 1:14-18

Written Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, light of the world, on this holy day you entered our shadows with your peace. You came for the weary, the searching, and the broken—and you came for me. Let the joy of your birth quiet every anxious thought and strengthen my hope in your redeeming love. Grant that I may be filled with the peace the angels proclaimed, so that I may rest and rejoice this day and may carry your peace into this world you love. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!

— Luke 2:14

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

Invitation to Worship

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!
— Psalm 103:1

Psalm 100

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Prompted Prayer

- For gratitude as you remember God's faithfulness through the past year
- For those who are sick, grieving, or struggling to find comfort
- For those who labor in ministry, whether locally or abroad, to be encouraged and renewed

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!
— 2 Corinthians 9:15

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Invitation to Worship

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness!
— Psalm 100:1-2

Psalm 103

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer for Sabbath

O God, who by the leading of a star revealed your only-begotten Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.
— Psalm 121:7-8

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

A NEW YEAR OF GRACE

Psalm 121

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Revelation 21:1-7

Sabbath Prayer

May this day bring Sabbath rest to my heart and my home.
May God's image in me be restored,
and my imagination in God be re-storied.
May the gravity of material things be lightened,
and the relativity of time slow down.
May I know grace to embrace my own finite smallness
in the arms of God's infinite greatness.
May God's word feed me and his Spirit lead me into the week and
into the life to come.

(From Peter Grieg)

Benediction

The God of peace be with you all. Amen.
— Romans 15:33

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29

BLESSINGS OF GOD'S SON

Invitation to Worship

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
— Psalm 34:1

Psalm 72

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Luke 2:21-24

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer

O God, who shows in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation.
— Psalm 68:19

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30

THE LIGHT FOR ALL

Invitation to Worship

For God alone, my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.
— Psalm 62:1

Psalm 117

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: John 8:12

Prompted Prayer

- For wisdom and discernment as you consider the year ahead
- For your church community to grow in love, unity, and faithfulness to God's calling
- For the message of Christ to reach those who have yet to hear it

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand.
— Psalm 121:5

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

REFLECTING CHRIST

Invitation to Worship

The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts.
— Psalm 28:7

Psalm 86

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Prayers of Intercession

Confession

Gracious God, my sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what my lips tremble to name, what my heart can no longer bear, and what has become for me a consuming fire of judgment. Set me free from a past that I cannot change, open to me a future in which I can be changed, and grant me grace to grow more and more in Your likeness and image through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Personal Examination and Confession

Assurance of Grace

For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.
— Romans 6:14

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all.
— 1 Thessalonians 3:12

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1

RECONCILIATION THROUGH CHRIST

Invitation to Worship

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

— Psalm 36:5

Psalm 61

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Colossians 1:15-20

Prayers of Intercession

Written Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and earth:
Mercifully hear the prayers of your people, and in our time grant us your
peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the
Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way.
— 2 Thessalonians 3:16

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2

BEHOLDING HIS GLORY

Invitation to Worship

The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.

— Nahum 1:7

Psalm 93

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: John 3:16-21

Prompted Prayer

- For an increased awareness of God's beauty and glory in everyday life
- For those in your neighborhood or workplace to feel seen and cared for
- For open hearts among those who have never experienced the hope found in Christ

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

— Romans 16:20

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3

MANIFEST LIGHT

Invitation to Worship

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
— Psalm 27:1

Psalm 72

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer for Sabbath

O God of peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and trust shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit, lift us, we pray, into your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.
— Jude 1:24-25

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4

THE KING'S RADIANCE

Psalm 27

Reading: Isaiah 60:1-3, 19-20

Sabbath Prayer

May this day bring Sabbath rest to my heart and my home.
May God's image in me be restored,
and my imagination in God be re-storied.
May the gravity of material things be lightened,
and the relativity of time slow down.
May I know grace to embrace my own finite smallness
in the arms of God's infinite greatness.
May God's word feed me and his Spirit lead me into the week and
into the life to come.

(From Peter Grieg)

Benediction

The Lord bless you from Zion, he who made heaven and earth!
— Psalm 134:3

MONDAY, JANUARY 5

SEEING GOD'S LIGHT

Invitation to Worship

Come, behold the works of the Lord, how he has brought desolations on the earth.

— Psalm 46:8

Psalm 67

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: 1 John 1:5-10

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

— Philemon 1:25

EPIPHANY

*"The Magi had only a star to guide them,
but it led them to the Light of the World."*

— Madeleine L'Engle

*"When we see Christ as He is,
we are compelled to make Him known;
His light draws us out to share His love."*

— Thomas Merton

Epiphany is the day of light and revelation. While Christmas celebrates God's arrival in the world, Epiphany reflects on God's arrival to all people. When the Magi came to honor Jesus, they represented the nations of the world coming to worship the messiah. Epiphany invites us to look at Jesus as the light for all nations, the one who came not only to fulfill Israel's hope but to bring salvation and transformation to every corner of the earth.

The word "epiphany" means "revelation" or "appearance." Jesus didn't come in secret but entered the world as a radiant light for all to see. Epiphany is both a celebration and a call to mission—a reminder that we, too, are generously invited to make Jesus known by sharing His love and grace with those around us.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6

EPIPHANY: LIGHT FOR THE NATIONS

Invitation to Worship

Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
— Isaiah 60:3

Psalm 98

Prayers of Praise & Thanksgiving

Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer

O God, by the leading of a star, you revealed your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, into your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
— Isaiah 60:1

APPENDIX

Below is the text of the Lord's prayer (drawn from Matthew 6 and Luke 11). The traditional language is wonderful in connecting with all those who use these words across the English-speaking world. The modern language version not only updates the Thee's and Thou's, but also reflects the original greek more accurately. Both versions include the final two lines which are not part of either gospel account but were included by early Christians as a concluding doxology. Feel free to use either version.

Lord's Prayer (modern language)

Our Father in heaven:
may your name be kept holy,
may your kingdom come,
may your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we also forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For yours is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer (traditional language)

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,
forever and ever. Amen.

NOTES:

