



*Journey to Bethlehem, by Armen Vahramayan (Armenian, 1968 - )*

# *Family Advent Guide for 2025*



CHURCH OF THE  
**HOLY CROSS**

# INTRO

The Church year begins with Advent, a season of anticipation and waiting. Advent means “coming,” and during these four weeks we prepare to celebrate Christ’s first coming at Christmas, even as we look ahead to his coming again at the end of all things.

This guide, using the shortened forms of Morning and Evening Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer (2019), is meant to help us prayerfully prepare for our coming Lord. You may follow these prayers on your own or with family and friends. Families might find it helpful to say Morning Prayer after breakfast and Evening Prayer after dinner. For each service, you may choose the appointed lectionary reading listed on page 16—passages selected to echo the themes of Advent.

In the opening chapters of Luke’s Gospel, Jesus enters a world filled with song. Two of those songs—the Benedictus and the Magnificat—have shaped the Church’s daily prayers for centuries, and they are especially fitting in this season.

Each week’s Collect, introduced on Sunday and prayed throughout the week, draws us into a particular Advent theme. You’ll also find a weekly hymn and piece of sacred art, along with reflection questions, to aid your meditation and preparation. Advent, the beginning of the Church year, is a wonderful time to begin, renew, or deepen your devotional life with the Lord. May this guide assist you in that holy work.



## **Suggestions for picture study:**

For each week of Advent, there is a different piece of sacred art to study (on pgs 8, 10, 12, 14). Quietly study the picture, sitting in silence, taking it all in, noticing every detail and trying to see it in your mind's eye.

Then, without looking at the picture, try to describe as much detail as you can remember.

After everyone has been able to share details they remember, look at the picture again and have a short discussion using questions such as: "What does this picture remind you of?" or "What do you wonder about the painting?" or "What do you think God is telling us through this painting?"

# FAMILY PRAYER

## IN THE MORNING

*The following or some other verse of Scripture is said*

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth your praise.

PSALM 51:15

### PSALM 51:10-12

- 10 **Create in me a clean heart, O God, \***  
**and renew a right spirit within me.**
- 11 **Cast me not away from your presence, \***  
**and take not your holy Spirit from me.**
- 12 **O give me the comfort of your help again, \***  
**and sustain me with your willing Spirit.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \***  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,**  
**world without end. Amen.**

### A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

See lectionary readings on p 16 - Old Testament reading

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

### THE COLLECT

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to the beginning of this day: Defend us by your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor run into any danger; and that, guided by your Spirit, we may do what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

# BENEDICTUS

*The Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79), Melody: G. H. Monk*



- BLESSED** be the Lord God of | Israel;  
\* for he hath visited and re|deemed • his **people**;
- 2 And hath raised up a mighty sal|vation for us,  
\* in the house of his | servant **David**;
- 3 As he spake by the mouth of his | holy Prophets,  
\* which have | been • since the | world began;
- 4 That we should be saved | from our enemies,  
\* and from the hand of | all that **hate** us.
- 5 To perform the mercy promised to our | **forefathers**,  
\* and to remember his | holy covenant;
- 6 To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather | **Abraham**,  
\* that | he would **give** us;
- 7 That we being delivered out of the | hand of • our enemies  
\* might | serve him • **without** fear;
- 8 In holiness and righteous|ness before him,  
\* all the | days of **our** life.
- 9 And thou child shalt be called the prophet | of the **Highest**:  
\* for thou shalt go before the face of the | Lord • to pre|pare his ways;
- 10 To give knowledge of salvation | unto • his people  
\* for the re|mission of their sins,
- 11 Through the tender mercy | of our God;  
\* whereby the day-spring from on | high hath | visit-ed us;
- 12 To give light to them that sit in darkness,  
and in the | shadow • of death,  
\* and to guide our feet | into • the way of peace.
- Glory be to the Father and | to the Son,  
\* and | to the Holy Ghost;
- As it was in the beginning, is now and | ever shall be,  
\* world without | **end. Amen.**

Go to [anglicancompass.com/benedictus](http://anglicancompass.com/benedictus) for a helpful guide on how to chant the Benedictus!

# FAMILY EVENING PRAYER

*The following or some other verse of Scripture is said*

How excellent is your mercy, O God!

The children of men shall take refuge under the shadow of your wings.

For with you is the well of life,

And in your light shall we see light.

PSALM 36:7, 9

PHOS HILARON

*O Gladsome Light*

**O gladsome light,**

**pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, \***

**O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!**

**Now as we come to the setting of the sun,**

**and our eyes behold the vesper light, \***

**we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

**You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, \***

**O Son of God, O Giver of Life,**

**and to be glorified through all the worlds.**

## A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

See lectionary readings on p 16 - Gospel reading

# Magnificat

S. Wesley, *Luke 1:46-55*



MY soul doth magni|fy the Lord,  
\* and my spirit hath rejoiced in | God my SAVior.

2 For | he · hath re|garded  
\* the lowliness | of his HANDmaiden.

3 For be|hold, from henceforth  
\* all generations shall | call me BLESSed.

4 For he that is mighty hath | magni·fied me;  
\* and | holy is his name.

*2nd half*

5 And his mercy is on | them that fear him  
\* throughout | all · generAtions.

6 He hath showed | strength · with his | arm;  
\* he hath scattered the proud in the imagi|nation of their hearts.

7 He hath put down the mighty | from their seat,  
\* and hath ex|alted · the | humble · and meek.

8 He hath filled the hungry with | GOOD things;  
\* and the rich he hath | SENT | empty · away.

9 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant | Israel;  
\* as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his | seed, for EVER.

Glory be to the Father, and | to the Son,  
\* and | to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and | ever shall be,  
\* world without | END. Amen.

Go to [anglicancompass.com/magnificat](http://anglicancompass.com/magnificat) for a helpful guide on how to chant the Magnificat!

## THE APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

## THE COLLECT

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.**

## WEEK 1



*The Second Coming of Jesus*, detached fresco by unknown artist, c. 1300.

Originally from the Clarissan monastery of Santa Maria inter Angelos, near Spoleto, Italy.

We read about Christ's Second Coming during Advent because the focus is not only on His first coming at Christmas, but also His anticipated return.

### COLLECT FOR THE FIRST WEEK IN ADVENT

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 for ever. **Amen.**



# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Words: Charles Wesley, 1744. Music (STUTTGART): Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715, alt.

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus,  
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,  
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er,  
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it

3

born to set thy peo - ple free; from our fears and  
 hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of  
 born a child and yet a king, born to reign in  
 rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all - suf -

6

sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
 ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
 us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
 fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

## WEEK 2



*Peaceable Kingdom*, by Edward Hicks (American, 1780-1849). Oil on canvas.  
The inscription on each of the corners reads, “INNOCENCE - MEEKNESS - LIBERTY”

During Advent we read the words of the prophet Isaiah because of the hopeful vision of God's Kingdom where all things will be restored.

### COLLECT FOR THE SECOND WEEK IN ADVENT

Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**


# While We Are Waiting, Come

Text: Claire Cloninger, Tune: Don Carson.



While we are wait - ing, come; \_\_\_\_\_ While we are wait - ing, come. \_\_\_\_\_  
With pow'r and glo - ry, come; \_\_\_\_\_ With pow'r and glo - ry, come. \_\_\_\_\_  
Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come; \_\_\_\_\_ Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come. \_\_\_\_\_

9



Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el, While we are wait - ing come

## WEEK 3



*The Census at Bethlehem*, by Pieter Bruegel the Elder (Dutch, 1525/30-1569). Oil on panel.

### COLLECT FOR THE THIRD WEEK IN ADVENT

O Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise make ready your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient toward the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world, we may be found a people acceptable in your sight; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

# Lo! He Comes, With Clouds Descending

Text: Charles Wesley, 1758. Music (HELMsLEY): attr: Augustine Arne; adapt. Thomas Olivers, 1763.

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing,  
2 Now re - demp - tion, long ex - pect - ed,  
3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion  
4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee,

5  
once for our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand  
comes in so - lemn splen - dor near; all the  
still his daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of  
high on thine e - ter - nal throne; Sav - ior,

10  
thou - sand saints at - tend - ing swell the  
saints this world re - ject - ed thrill the  
end - less ex - ul - ta - tion to his  
take the power and glo - ry, claim the

14  
tri - umph of his train: Al - le -  
trum - pet sound to hear: Al - le -  
ran - somed wor - ship - ers; with what  
king - dom for thine own: O come

18  
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what  
quick - ly! O come quick - ly! O come

22  
lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!  
rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
quick - ly! Thou shalt regin, and thou a - lone.

## WEEK 4



*Adoration of the Shepherds*, by Jyoti Sahi (Indian, 1944 - ), 1983. Oil and acrylic on canvas.

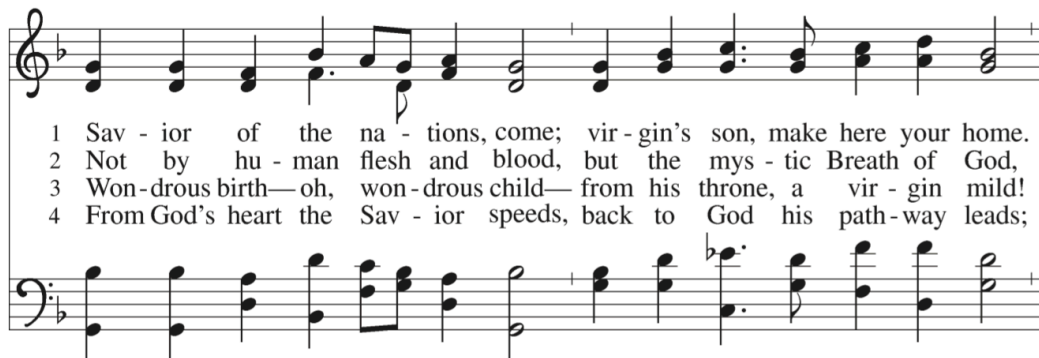
### COLLECT FOR THE FOURTH WEEK IN ADVENT

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins from running the race that is set before us, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

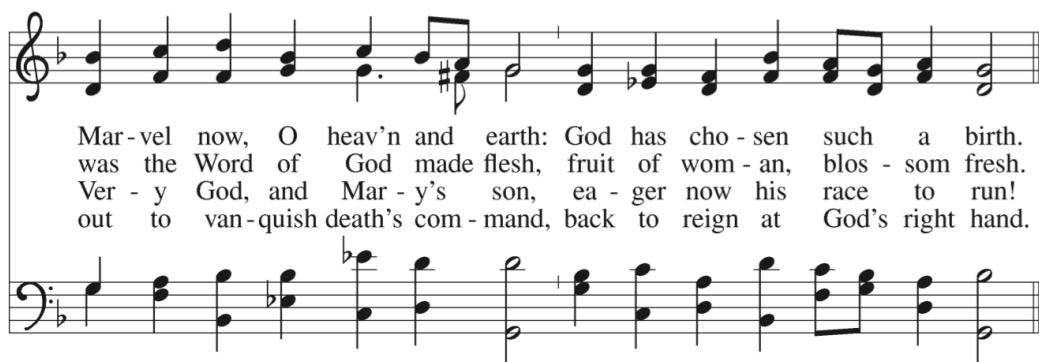


## Savior of the Nations, Come

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version. Music: J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524.



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,  
3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!  
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.  
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,  
hallows night with newborn light.  
Night cannot this light subdue;  
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
To the holy Trinity  
praise we sing eternally!

# LECTIONARY

DATE	1ST LESSON	OLD TESTAMENT	GOSPEL
<b>30</b>	Advent 1 - Sunday	Isaiah 1:1-9	Matthew 24:1-14
<b>1</b>	Advent 1 - Monday	Isaiah 1:10-20	Mark 1:1-13
<b>2</b>	Advent 1 - Tuesday	Isaiah 1:21-31	Mark 1:14-28
<b>3</b>	Advent 1 - Wednesday	Isaiah 2:1-11	Mark 1:29-45
<b>4</b>	Advent 1 - Thursday	Isaiah 2:12-22	Mark 2:1-12
<b>5</b>	Advent 1 - Friday	Isaiah 3:1-4:1	Mark 2:13-22
<b>6</b>	Advent 1 - Saturday	Isaiah 4:2-6	Mark 2:23-3:6
<b>7</b>	Advent 2 - Sunday	Isaiah 5:1-7	Luke 7:28-35
<b>8</b>	Advent 2 - Monday	Isaiah 5:8-12 18-23	Luke 20:1-8
<b>9</b>	Advent 2 - Tuesday	Isaiah 5:13-17 24-25	Luke 20:9-18
<b>10</b>	Advent 2 - Wednesday	Isaiah 6:1-13	John 7:53-8:11
<b>11</b>	Advent 2 - Thursday	Isaiah 7:1-9	Luke 22:1-13
<b>12</b>	Advent 2 - Friday	Isaiah 7:10-25	Luke 22:14-30
<b>13</b>	Advent 2 - Saturday	Isaiah 8:1-15	Luke 22:31-38
<b>14</b>	Advent 3 - Sunday	Isaiah 9:1-7	John 3:16-21
<b>15</b>	Advent 3 - Monday	Isaiah 10:5-19	Matthew 3:1-12
<b>16</b>	Advent 3 - Tuesday	Isaiah 10:20-27	Matthew 3:13-17
<b>17</b>	Advent 3 - Wednesday	Isaiah 10:20-34	Luke 1:5-25
<b>18</b>	Advent 3 - Thursday	Isaiah 11:1-9	Luke 1:26-38
<b>19</b>	Advent 3 - Friday	Isaiah 11:10-16	Luke 1:39-48a 49-56
<b>20</b>	Advent 3 - Saturday	Isaiah 12	Luke 1:57-66
<b>21</b>	Advent 4 - Sunday	Isaiah 13:1-13	John 7:40-52
<b>22</b>	Advent 4 - Monday	Isaiah 14:3-20	Luke 1:67-80
<b>23</b>	Advent 4 - Tuesday	Isaiah 11:1-9	John 3:16-21
<b>24</b>	Advent 4 - Wednesday	Isaiah 59:15b-21	Luke 1:26-38