

2012 Advent Prayers

Advent Week One

Sunday, December 2

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Blessed are you O God, King of the universe, who provides and nourishes our very being. Night and day we seek to serve others in your Name. With this meal, strengthen our bodies and hearts, that we may share the blessings of your abundant grace. Guide us with your Word to those who hunger for faith and food. With deepest thanksgiving, we pray in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen ★*Christopher Suehr, Student-Southwestern PA Synod*

Monday, December 3

Numbers 17:1-11

Lord of life, in your presence dead wood bursts into fruit and flower. Enliven in us, we pray, the wood that needs renewing: faith in you, hope for peace, and love to work for justice. Come, O Ever-Blooming Rose. Amen

★*Victoria Larson, Student, Delaware Maryland Synod*

Tuesday, December 4

2 Samuel 7:18-29

Loving God you are worthy to be loved. Who are we that you gave up so much to save us. For our sake and our salvation you incarnated to be like us but without sin and through that you made all humans your people. Saving God, make our hearts a dwelling place for your Son during this season of advent and at all times and help us your chosen people to be true advocates of Justice and Peace in our world. We ask these and many more through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost one God forever and ever. Amen

★*Godfred Effisah, Student, Metropolitan D.C. Synod*

Wednesday, December 5

Isaiah 1:24-31

O holy God, as we await the birth of your son, Jesus, may we be inspired to live a life of righteousness that mirrors your justice. Turn our hearts back to you, refocusing us on your will in our lives. Bring us peace as we anticipate the arrival of our redeemer. Amen ★*Kristen Papson, Student, Northwestern PA Synod*

Thursday, December 6

Malachi 3:5-12

Gracious and never changing God, as with the descendants of

Jacob you remain faithful throughout the years. We thank you for the many blessings you have bestowed upon us. At this season of Advent, give us hearts of compassion so that we never fail to share those blessings with others.

As you have been generous to us help us be generous with those around us. In Jesus' name. Amen ★*David Petr, Student, Presbyterian Church*

Friday, December 7

Philippians 1:18b-26

Holy God, we marvel that you became flesh and bones with a human body in order to reconcile us to yourself.

Help us to exalt you always in our bodies that we may speak with boldness about our resurrection hope knowing that whether we live or die Christ is our life. In Jesus name we pray. Amen ★*Laura Olsen, Student, Virginia Synod*

Saturday, December 8

Luke 9:1-6

Our Father, who has loved us and called us to serve, we offer you thanks for bringing us to this hour. As we gather in this meal, protect us from all harm, strengthen us in your grace, and ready our hands and feet to proclaim your kingdom to all the world, the kingdom initiated in the birth the baby boy of Bethlehem. All glory and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ. Amen ★*Samuel Chamelin, Student, United Church of Christ*

Advent Week Two

Sunday, December 9

Malachi 3:1-4

Oh God in Heaven, you send messengers to prepare the way for us to know and receive your son. We thank you for loving us enough to send Jesus to refine us as gold and silver instruments of your peace. Bless this food that it may nourish and sustain us as we boldly go forth to serve you today and always. In this season of hope we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen ★*Karen Albaugh, Student, Delaware-Maryland Synod*

Monday, December 10

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comforting God, you carry us in your arms during our times of need. As we prepare ourselves during this Advent season, let your glory be revealed to ourselves and others. May we be a shepherd who brings good tidings, just as your son, Jesus our Lord continues to do this day and everyday. Amen ★*J. Andrew McCaffery, Student, Southern Ohio Synod*

Tuesday, December 11

Psalm 126

Joyous God, today we rejoice in the promises that you continually give to us and the way that you fill us with joy. You give us things far greater than we ever thought were possible and far greater than we ever deserve. Help us to remember that as we continue our journey through Advent leading up to the birth of your beloved son to keep a joy filled heart and singing a song of joy for all you have done for us and continue to do. Amen. ★*Nicole Welke, Student, East Central Wisconsin Synod*

Wednesday, December 12

Luke 7:18-30

Gracious God, you have regularly revealed yourself and your ways through agents and means not understood or appreciated by the powerful and the wise. You have always worked to include the outcast, powerless, and marginalized to be richly blessed in your saving work. As you bless our meal, we ask that it would also help sustain us to be your agents of divine grace and acceptance to the outcast, powerless, and marginalized in our contexts. In Christ's name we pray, Amen ★*The Rev. Dr. Richard Carlson, Glatfelter Professor of Biblical Studies, Director of Internship, and Coordinator of Post-Internship Candidacy, Allegheny Synod*

Thursday, December 13

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Gracious and Loving God, You have shown us what extravagant love truly is by sending your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, into this lost and broken world. He freely gave up inconceivable riches so that we might receive the abundant wealth of your grace. Stir up within us an eagerness to share our abundance with others so that as you have nourished us with this Living Bread from Heaven we may be a source of nourishment for others. Amen ★*Edwina Landry, Student, New England Synod*

Friday, December 14

Amos 8:4-12

Dear God, In this advent season we are reminded of your promise of justice to protect the poor and needy. We confess that we are often self-centered and even exploitive of others. Grant us to hunger for your word and guide us to repentance. We yearn for reconciliation. Amen ★*Peter Suwak, Student, West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod*

Saturday, December 15

Isaiah 12:2-6

Today we give thanks, shout aloud and sing for joy to the Lord of our salvation! We praise your Holy name and give thanks for your saving grace. Give us your strength, help us to not be afraid and to always trust in you. In Christ's name we pray. Amen ★*MaryLou Matthews, Student, Diaconal Ministry Candidate, Upper Susquehanna Synod*

Advent Week Three

Sunday, December 16

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Heavenly Father, the prophet's words ring in our ears as we prepare to rejoice in your love and sing a festival song. Your promises bring us hope as we anticipate shouting in celebration of victory. Now, we give you thanks for all your gifts. Bless this food and fill us with your Spirit, so that we may serve you faithfully. Amen

★*Dr. Edward Sites, Gettysburg Seminary Endowment Foundation Trustee, Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod*

Monday, December 17

Colossians 1:15-20

God of all creation, we give you thanks for the abundance of blessings you daily bestow on us. As we watch and wait this Advent season, we pray that you will come to dwell in our hearts, our homes, our churches, and our communities that we may share in your reconciling and redeeming love. We ask your blessing upon this meal, that this food may nourish and strength us as we serve you with expectant and hopeful hearts. Amen

★*Kimberly Belken, Student, Nebraska Synod*

Tuesday, December 18

Genesis 30:1-24

In the midst of this Advent Season, may we all find grace and peace in the most unlikely of places and circumstances in which we find ourselves. God's grace is still abundant and full of mercy in times of such occurrences as Leah and Rachel find themselves entangled. Children are a gift from God, no matter the circumstance in which they find their way into our lives; may we always rejoice in the gift of life that we find in the waiting and arrival of the infant Jesus the Christ our Lord. Amen ★*David Tolar, Student, United Methodist Church*

Wednesday, December 19

Psalms 113

Gracious God, you humble yourself to behold us each day, lovingly lifting up the poor and needy from dust and despair. We offer praise for your loving kindness, and thanks for this meal. As we prepare for your coming, teach us through Word and prayer to be ever mindful of the world around us, a world in need of food, kindness, and most of all, a Savior. Amen. ★*George Scott, Student, Lower Susquehanna Synod*

Thursday, December 20

Jeremiah 31:31-34

God of light and promise, be with us as we gather around the light of your word. Nourish us with hope and give us patience in waiting for your promised coming. With all Christians throughout the world, we pray for the grace to be people of hope for our communities, and make us your tools to build peace among nations and peoples throughout the world. Give us a generous spirit so we can see the wide horizon of your love, and plant new hearts within us to make room for the prince of peace in our lives, Amen ★*The Rev. Dr. Maria Erling, Professor of Modern Church History and Global Missions and Director of Teaching Parish, Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod*

Friday, December 21

Isaiah 42:10-18

Heavenly and gracious Father, the whole world lifts its voice to you. Let us look up and be guided by your star, may it turn our darkness into light. May you guide us as we await your son in this world. Amen ★*Ryan Kobert, Student, Allegheny Synod*

Saturday, December 22

Micah 4:1-5

Loving God, we draw near and long to be in your presence. Continually draw us near to you so we may learn and practice your ways of peace. Help us to be voices that speak out against oppression, violence, and war. Guide our steps during this season of Advent as we look with hope and anticipation for the One who is to come. Amen

★*Daniel Burris, Student, North Carolina Synod*

Advent Week Four

Sunday, December 23

2 Peter 1:16-21

God of Majestic Glory, help us to be attentive to your words. May they be a lamp to us shining in the dark places of our lives as we wait for the dawning of the day of your return in glory. We look to you for the fulfillment of all the promises of God in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen ★*Jane Mountain, Student, Rocky Mountain Synod*

Monday, December 24

Luke 2:1-14

O God, with joy we receive your only-begotten Son on this night as our Savior and Lord. May all our fears be dispelled as we welcome his life-giving presence among us in peace and with thanksgiving. Keep us in your grace, guide us by your Spirit, and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen ★*The Rev. Scott Ickert, Seminary Board of Directors, Metropolitan D.C. Synod*

Tuesday, December 25

John 1:1-14

Oh Holy Word, at Christmas we call you by many names. Wonderful Counselor. Mighty God. Prince of Peace. Divine Light. "Word-made-flesh" sounds strange to modern ears. But it is Who and What you are! God among us. God fully human (in a baby) to save us. What joy is ours! What praise belongs to You! Bless us as we gather in your Name. Be especially close to those who are alone, sad, hungry and in pain this Christmas. Shower peace upon your whole creation. Amen ★*The Rev. Dr. Michael Cooper-White, 12th and current President of Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg*