ADVENT

**First Sunday**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies and God of all comfort, who, since the world began, gave through your holy prophets the promise of mercy and deliverance, we thank and praise you for the coming of your Son Jesus Christ, the Light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.

We beseech you, O God, that as your faithful people in every age have earnestly and heartily believed your Word, so we may also unwaveringly believe and be found worthy to obtain your heavenly promises. And as your servants in the Israel of the Old Covenant looked with fervent longing for the coming of the Messiah, the Deliverer, grant that we may eagerly and joyfully welcome him, Jesus our Lord, into our hearts by faith, and thus be delivered by his might from the power of sin, death, and the devil.

To this end, dear God, lead us by your Spirit to an understanding of our great sinfulness and our need of repentance. Teach us to repent. Help us to hate evil and to love the good. Strengthen us against the temptations of all our adversaries. Incline our hearts to seek righteousness and holiness, that thus we may serve and glorify you.

Send out your light to all corners of the earth, that people everywhere may know your love in the gift of your Son Jesus Christ, and join the multitude of your people who say, Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest. Grant peace and tranquility to the nations of the earth. Especially we ask for your favor upon our own land and all who dwell here. Guide all who are in authority over us, that in all things they may do your will and acknowledge you, the only true God.

Bless all who are gathered here in your house this day and sanctify them by your Word. To those among us who are afflicted in any way, to those who are in sorrow, to those who are enduring trials, to those who may be in any necessity of body or spirit, grant such strength, comfort, and understanding that they, loving you above all else, may in patience and constancy know the joy of your abiding presence.

All these things we ask in the Name of him who came for our deliverance, died for our salvation, rose again for our justification, and ever lives to intercede for us before the Majesty on High, even Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ADVENT

**Second Sunday**

O Lord God, the Father of all light and wisdom, who is righteous in all your ways and true in all your judgments, we give thanks to you for your Word, for your statutes and testimonies, for your laws and commandments, for your sacred ordinances and your sure word of prophecy, and most especially for the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. For your whole counsel we praise you. We confess with thanksgiving that your truth is pure, enlightening the eyes; perfect, converting the soul; sure, making wise the simple; right, rejoicing the heart; true, guiding the lost; good, strengthening the weak; and light, leading us to Christ. We ask for your blessing on all who preach, teach, read, and study your Word, that all humankind may hear the joyful sound of the Gospel.

O God, fill us with all joy and peace in believing, that we may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. Help us that we may serve and love you with pure hearts, worship you with clean hands, obey you with willing minds, trust you with perfect confidence, fear you and none other, and love you above all the world. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to the end that we, trusting in your Word and promise which have been confirmed to us by the gift of your Son Jesus Christ, may here and in the world to come glorify and praise you evermore.

To this end guard and preserve us that the devil, the world, and our own flesh may not deceive us, nor lead us into error, unbelief, and sin. Teach us to watch and pray always that, abiding faithful even unto death, we may be accounted worthy to escape those things that shall come to pass on the earth and to stand before the Son of man, Jesus our Lord, who shall come to be our Judge. Keep us steadfast in faith and love, that we may not fail to obtain that inheritance which he has promised to all who love and serve him.

We pray for your church, O God, that all schisms, scandals, and heresies may be put out of the way, and that it may serve you in truth, purity, and single-minded devotion.

Give peace and stability to the nations of the earth. Put down all evil rulers, and raise up those who will serve after your good pleasure. We pray your blessing upon our homes and families; may Jesus Christ rule in the hearts of parents and children. Give strength and healing, after your good counsel, to the sick; give comfort to those who sorrow; give guidance to our youth; give joy and hope to the aged; give courage to the perplexed; and lead all of us to look now and always to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, who in his Second Advent will receive us and all who believe in him unto himself and unto you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit. In his holy Name we pray these things. Amen.

ADVENT

**Third Sunday**

O God, the Shepherd of Israel, who led Joseph like a flock through all the long years of promise, nourishing and sustaining your people in the hope of deliverance by the word of your prophets, and who in the fullness of time raised up a Horn of Salvation in the house of David, even your Son Jesus Christ, grant unto us such a vivid faith in your promises that we may rejoice and give thanks evermore.

Now, O Father, in this most sacred hour we, your children, bring you our prayers and supplications with thanksgiving. According to the necessities of each, send such deliverance as will renew us in body and soul. Forgive our sins and blot out all our iniquities. If any be blind in heart and spirit, open their eyes; if any walk uncertainly, guide them in the pathways of righteousness; if any be impure in thought, word, or deed, cleanse them by thy Spirit; if any be deaf to thy Spirit, open their ears to thy truth, that hearing they may believe and be saved; and if they be dead to the things that pertain to their salvation, quicken them by your mighty power. Let thy Holy Spirit descend upon us, we pray, that we may not fail in that day when our Lord will come again to bring to light the hidden things of darkness and make manifest the counsels of the heart.

We pray for thy church everywhere throughout the world. Grant your blessing to all of your servants who proclaim your Word to the multitudes. Give aid and strength to all missionaries and through them accompany your Word with power, that all humankind may know you to be the only true God and Savior of all. Rule over the hearts of all humanity, guide the decisions of those in authority, and sit in the secret councils of nations, to the end that peace and justice may prevail. Help all people to know and believe the doctrine of him whom you sent, and grant that they may learn that only those things are good, true, and enduring which are in obedience to your Son Jesus Christ.

Bless all who are gathered before you this day in the fellowship of the Spirit, especially those here in this holy house. Be with those of our number who are sick or under any affliction of body, mind, or spirit. Comfort them that they may, through their trials, learn of your gracious power and readiness to help in every time of need. Endow us all with grace, that we may daily show forth the light of your Name, and the divine excellencies of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, we beseech of thee in his Name. Amen.

ADVENT

**Fourth Sunday**

O heavenly Father, who made all things in heaven and earth to serve your will and to witness to your glory and goodness, we give you our humble and joyful thanks for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and for the salvation you have provided for all humankind in him.

With contrite hearts we turn to you, O God. We acknowledge our transgressions and confess that we have failed to do the good which we ought to have done, and that we have done the evil which we ought not to have done. Forgive us and stir us to a quickened sense of our iniquity and sin; awaken us to our need of daily repentance and renewal, and by your grace deliver us out of all that besets us and causes us to fall. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit. Sanctify the words of our lips by the indwelling of Christ our Lord. Perfect in purity and holiness the works of our hands by obedience to your Word. Hear, O God. Come, heal and renew us. Grant us the remission of all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ and his merits, so that forgiven we may have that peace which passes all understanding.

And now, in the assurance that you are with all who call upon you in truth, we pray for all people everywhere. Let your Spirit prevail in every home and school, in every shop and store, and in every kind of labor or industry. Show forth your honor and glory to the nations of the earth; overthrow all who would hinder the progress of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Aid all who are persecuted for your Name's sake, and prosper all who love your truth. Be with the homeless, the orphaned, and the comfortless, and help them in their affliction to trust in you, sending them such deliverance as shall turn their hearts and bring them to a confession of that Name which is above every name, Jesus Christ.

For the wounded in spirit, the sick in mind, the distressed in heart, we pray that you would make your face to shine upon them. For all strangers, all travelers, and all who are away from home in any service or calling, we pray and beseech you to accompany them with your light and love. For captives and prisoners, for the desolate and forsaken, and for all in peril of life or soul, we implore your aid and comfort. For the sick and the aged, for those in labor and those in any anguish, for the dying and those who mourn their passing, be most gracious; lift up your countenance upon them and give them the perfect peace of the holy child Jesus.

In thanks for the gift that no words or tongue can describe, the gift of Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray, O heavenly Father, that this gift may be ours in faith. Grant that our hearts may be a fit dwelling place for your Son and that we may know the joy of his presence, the blessing of following in his steps, and the glory of that crown which he has promised to all who are his in steadfastness of faith and life.

In his Name. Amen.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

**Christmas Eve**

Blessed God and Father, Fountain of all wisdom and grace, who promised the deliverance of your people from condemnation, in deepest humility we give our thanks and praise for the remembrance of your covenant and the fulfillment of your promise in the gift of your Son Jesus Christ. In spirit we stand in holy awe and reverence before the manger of the Christ Child. The Dayspring from on high has visited us, and who can search out the limits of this mercy? That God, the Son of God, should take our mortal form for mortals' sake, who can examine this mystery? That light and life should be given to those who abide in the darkness of evil, who can know what divine counsels decreed so great a thing for unworthy sinners like us? O God, how unsearchable are your judgments, and your ways beyond our knowing. We bow in reverence and wonder.

For the giving of your most beloved Son, we thank you, Father. We praise, we laud, and we magnify you forever. We bless you for the establishment of your kingdom here upon this stained and weary earth, even among us who deserve only that you should hide your face because of our iniquities.

As we assemble to worship you and to contemplate the mysteries of the incarnation, wherein the Son of the Most High took upon himself the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of humanity, grant us a sense of gratitude and joy, that life, hope, and faith may be renewed in each of us, and that each one may find in this Babe of Bethlehem the way of salvation, the remission of sins, the deliverance from every evil power, and the hope of life everlasting.

Grant that the incarnate Savior may rule in the hearts of all people everywhere. Extend the dominion of the Prince of Peace to all the nations of the earth. Give growth in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ to your church, that even as the great snows cover the mountains, the waters fill the ocean chasms, and the clouds cover the vast plains so it may abound in love, joy, and peace, and in faith and every good work. To this end help us, O God, to proclaim the Good News of our Savior's birth in church, in home, in school, in shop, and in market place; use each of us, young and old, according to our talents and abilities. Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will to all! This we pray in the Name of the Christ Child, Jesus our Lord and King. Amen.