



Cradle Our Hopes

*Advent - Epiphany
Devotional*

At a glance: Worshipers are invited to write down their hopes for the world, the church, their family and friends, and their lives, and then place them in the manger each week during worship.

Make the seasons of Advent and Christmas a meaningful time in your home using some of the ideas that follow.

- Purchase or make an Advent wreath. Use 3 blue & one pink candle for Sundays and weeks of Advent. Add white votive candles in the center or around the outside of the wreath during the twelve days of Christmas. Or remove the Advent wreath on Christmas Eve and create a circle of white votive candles, adding one candle each day until Epiphany (January 6). Prayers to accompany the candle lighting are provided below.
- Make plans to gather daily, beginning on the first Sunday of Advent, for a time to reflect on the gift of love God shared with all people. Continue this gathering throughout the twelve days of Christmas.
- Decide what kinds of things your daily gathering will include. Decide on a time, such as morning, evening, or mealtime, to meet. Suggested table prayers are provided below for gatherings that take place at mealtime. Decide who will light and snuff out the candles.
- Daily scripture readings drawn from year C of the Revised Common Lectionary and the Daily Lectionary in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* are listed on the next page. After the reading each day, take time to think about or discuss the passage, as well as any feelings or experiences that related to the scripture reading. Reflections may also take the form of an art response (drawing, clay, painting) or journaling.
- Sing or read the words to an Advent or Christmas hymn and reflect on the significance those words have for your life. Some hymns from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* are sprinted at the back of this booklet.



Prayers to accompany the candle lighting

Week 1

Lord Jesus, we do not lack any spiritual gift as we wait for your coming. Keep us awake and help us use our gifts to serve those who look for the dawn of your justice and mercy. Amen.

Week 2

God our shepherd, gather us as lambs in your arms. Forgive our sins so that we may rejoice in your coming. Amen.

Week 3

Lord Jesus, you continue to do great things for us. Give us your gift of peace as we await your coming. Amen.

Week 4

God our Savior, nothing is impossible for you. Prepare our hearts to rejoice in your glorious advent. Amen.

Christmas 1 through Epiphany of Our Lord

Lord God, may your Word become flesh through our lives so that we may see him in the fullness of his glory. Amen.



Table prayers

Week 1

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blest.
Keep us ever in your sight; be our joy, our hearts' delight. Amen.

Week 2

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blest.
May there be a goodly share on every table everywhere. Amen.

Week 3

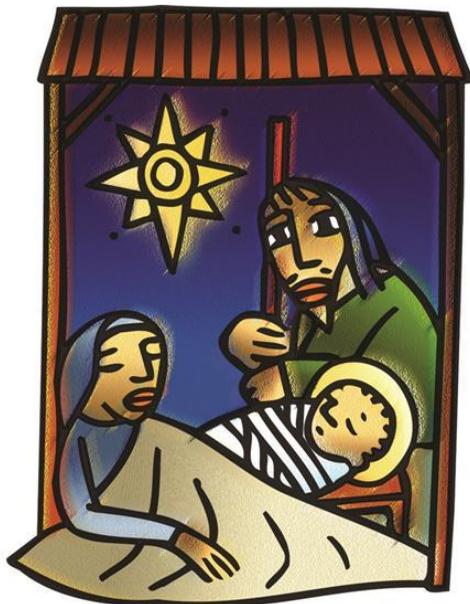
Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blest.
Guide us on the servant's way; lead us to your dawning day. Amen.

Week 4

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blest.
Deep within us come to dwell that we might all your goodness tell. Amen.

Christmas 1 through Epiphany of Our Lord

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest; let these gifts to us be blest.
Every day your praise we sing; help us shine the light you bring. Amen.



Daily Bible Readings for Advent and Christmas

Week 1

Sunday Dec 1 -

Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44

Mon – Dec 2

Genesis 8:1-19 Romans 6:1-11 Psalm 124

Tue – Dec 3

Genesis 9:1-17 Hebrews 11:32-40 Psalm 124

Wed – Dec 4

Isaiah 54:1-10 Matthew 24:23-35 Psalm 124

Thu – Dec 5

Isaiah 4:2-6 Acts 1:12-17, 21-26 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 **Fri – Dec 6**

Isaiah 30:19-26 Acts 13:16-25 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Sat – Dec 7

Isaiah 40:1-11 John 1:19-28 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Week 2

Sunday - Dec 8

Isaiah 11:1-10) Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12

Mon - Dec 9

Isaiah 24:1-16a 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 Psalm 21

Tue - Dec 10

Isaiah 41:14-20 Romans 15:14-21 Psalm 21

Wed - Dec 11

Genesis 15:1-18 Matthew 12:33-37 Psalm 21

Thu - Dec 12

Ruth 1:6-18 2 Peter 3:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10

Fri - Dec 13

Ruth 4:13-17 2 Peter 3:11-18 Psalm 146:5-10

Sat - Dec 14

1 Samuel 2:1-8 Luke 3:1-18 Psalm 146:5-10

Week 3

Sunday - Dec 15

Isaiah 35:1-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

Mon - Dec 16

Isaiah 29:17-24 Acts 5:12-16 Psalm 42

Tue - Dec 17

Ezekiel 47:1-12 Jude 17-25 Psalm 42

Wed - Dec 18

Zechariah 8:1-17 Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34 Psalm 42 **Thu - Dec 19**

2 Samuel 7:1-17 Galatians 3:23-29 Psalm 80:1-7

Fri - Dec 20

2 Samuel 7:18-22 Galatians 4:1-7 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 **Sat - Dec 21**

2 Samuel 7:23-29 John 3:31-36 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Week 4

Sunday Dec 22 -

Isaiah 7:10-16 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25

Mon - Dec 23

2 Samuel 7:18, 23-29 Galatians 3:6-14 Luke 1:46b-55

Tuesday Dec 24 -Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Wednesday Dec 25 -Christmas Day

Isaiah 62:6-12 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20

Thu – Dec 26

Acts 7:59–8:8 Psalm 148

Fri – Dec 27

Proverbs 8:22-31 1 John 5:1-12 Psalm 148

Sat – Dec 28

Isaiah 49:13-23 Matthew 18:1-14 Psalm 148

Christmas 1 through Epiphany of Our Lord

Sunday Dec 29 – First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23

Mon – Dec 30

Jeremiah 31:15-22 Luke 19:41-44 Psalm 20

Tue – Dec 31

Isaiah 26:1-9 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Psalm 20

Wed - Jan 1

Readings Numbers 6:22-27 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:15-21

Thu – Jan 2

Genesis 12:1-7 Hebrews 11:1-12 Psalm 72

Fri – Jan 3

Genesis 28:10-22 Hebrews 11:13-22 Psalm 72

Sat – Jan 4

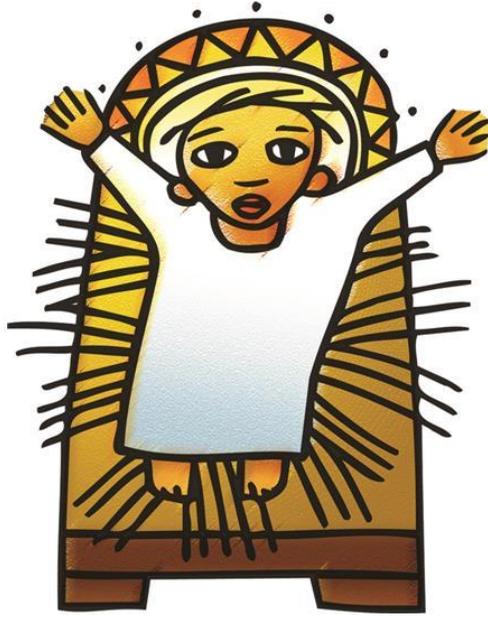
Exodus 3:1-5 Hebrews 11:23-31 Psalm 72

Sunday Jan 5 – Second Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:10-18

Monday Jan 6 – Epiphany of Our Lord

Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12



Hymns

Advent

Joy to the World

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

- 1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.
- 2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
gently lead them homeward.
- 3 Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
for the King of glory.
- 4 Light four candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.
Let your lights be shining!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

- 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*
- 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*
- 4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*
- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here

until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite Text
sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

Christmas

Away in a Manger

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*
- 3 Down in a lonely manger

the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925,
stanzas, alt.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.
- 2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all the earth!
- 3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.
- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels

the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893

We Three Kings of Orient Are

- 1 We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain

- Oh, star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!
- 2 Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again;
king forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. *Refrain*
 - 3 Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worshipping God Most High. *Refrain*
 - 4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *Refrain*
 - 5 Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heav'n sings alleluia:
alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain*

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

