



Jacob's Well Odvent Guide 2025





"What other time or season can or will the church ever have but that of Advent?" - Karl Barth

Welcome to Advent 2025! In this liturgical season comprised of the days around the four Sundays prior to Christmas, the church situates itself in the future, the past, and the present by fixing our gaze on the three Advents of the Son of God. We look forward with hope and anticipation, longing for the appearing of our Lord at the grand turning of the ages to come. We remember the works of God in the past, reading our sacred stories with an eye attuned to their prophetic significance fulfilled in the Incarnation of the Son of God. And we re-examine our hearts and our lives here and now, in order to better receive and bear witness to the presence of Christ in our world today. This Advent, we invite you to participate in this great work of prayerful presence with the Lord as we attend to the three Advents, and join with all those "who long for his appearing" around the world and throughout our sacred history.

This year, we are aligning our daily Advent reflections with the seven themes of the "O Antiphons," an ancient way of observing the end of this season that originated in the monastic rhythms of the 8th or 9th century. You may find these meditations familiar as they were later developed into the Advent hymn "O Come Emmanuel," and they are still part of more traditional Advent liturgies.







This guide is built around the seven days of the week. Using it is simple: just open to the current day of the week and follow the daily order of prayer. We would encourage you to include a candle lighting in your daily rhythm, and you might also use a traditional Advent wreath if you like.

If you choose to make the included daily scripture texts part of your prayer time, here is a simple way to structure your reflections based on the four moments of classical lectio divina: Reading, Reflecting, Responding, and Resting.

Reading ("Lectio"): Prayerfully read the text and notice: "What am I drawn to?" "What does this passage reveal about God and/or our Faith?"

Reflecting ("Meditatio"): Prayerfully reflect on your personal experience of this text. "What thoughts or feelings arise in me as I consider this scripture passage?" "How might this text be significant for my story and for my world in this season?"

Responding in Prayer ("Oratio"): Have a conversation with God about these reading and reflections. "What would I like to say to God?" "What invitations or consolations might God be offering me?" Ask God for the grace to attend to these.

Resting in God's Presence ("Contemplatio"): Savor your experience with God, pausing to simply "be" in the presence of the Lord, who assures us at the end of Matthew's gospel, "Behold, I am with you always, even to the close of the age."





Sunday: "O Emmanuel" ("O God-With-Us")

Opening Prayer

Eternal God, you do not abandon us in exile but hear our plea for returning and rest:
Visit us, we pray, with your presence and raise us to greet with hope and joy the promised day of salvation; through Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns now, and for ever. Amen.





Light your candle or wreath and pray the daily invocation:

God of the watching ones, give us your benediction. God of the waiting ones, give us your good word for our souls. God of the watching ones, the waiting ones,

the slow and suffering ones, give us your benediction, your good word for our souls, that we might rest and rise in the kindness of your presence.

Prayerful Silence

Bask in the glow of the candle(s) and take one or more minutes of prayerful silence as you feel led.

Daily Scripture Readings

11/30: Isaiah 9:2-7 12/7: Micah 5:2-5 12/14: Isaiah 35:1-10 12/21: Matthew 1:18-25

Concluding Prayer and Anthem

O Emmanuel, You are our King and Judge, the One whom the peoples await — Our Saviour.

O come and save us, Lord, our God.

O come, o come, Emmanuel / And ransom captive Israel That mourns in lonely exile here / Until the Son of God appear: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Guigo the Carthusian:

"Lest we consider this present exile to be our true home and this pledge to be our whole reward, our Spouse comes and withdraws by turn, now bringing us consolation, now exchanging all for weakness. For a short time He allows us to taste how sweet He is, and before our taste is satisfied He withdraws; and it is in the way, by flying above us with wings outspread, that he encourages us to fly as well." (from The Ladder of Monks)



Monday: "O Sapientia" ("O Wisdom")

Opening Prayer

Eternal God, your Word of wisdom goes forth and does not return empty: Grant us such knowledge and love of you that we may perceive your presence in all creation and every creature; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.





Light your candle or wreath and pray the daily invocation:

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God of the watching ones, the waiting ones,

the slow and suffering ones,

give us your benediction, your good word for our souls, that we might rest and rise in the kindness of your presence.

Prayerful Silence

Bask in the glow of the candle(s) and take one or more minutes of prayerful silence as you feel led.

Daily Scripture Readings

12/1: Proverbs 8:1-11 12/8: James 3:3-18 12/15: Job 28:20-28

12/22: 1 Corinthians 1:20-31

Thomas Merton: "The humility of Christ, living and efficacious in us, exalts us and unites us to Him in His glory. His humility makes us seek nothing in this world except to do the will of God. Such is the hidden Advent in which wisdom, without noise of words, builds His house in our hearts, raising it upon seven pillars and turning our souls into His palace and His throne. The soul of the just man is the seat of wisdom, and therefore the work of our preparation is above all the work of justice." (from Seasons of Celebration)

Concluding Prayer and Anthem

O Wisdom, You come forth from the lips of the Most High.

You fill the universe and hold all things together by your gentle strength.

O come to teach us the way of truth.

O come, O come, Thou Wisdom from above /

The universe sustaining with Thy Love.

Thou springest forth from Almighty's mouth /

Subdue us now, and lead us in Thy Truth.

 ${\it Rejoice! \, Rejoice! \, Emmanuel \, / \, Shall \, come \, to \, thee, \, O \, Israel.}$



Tuesday: "O Adonai" ("O Mighty Lord")

Opening Prayer

O Lord our God, you gave your law that righteousness might abound:
Put it into our hearts to love justice for others as much as we desire it for ourselves,







that, just as we know you to be our judge, so we may welcome your reign as it is manifested through Jesus Christ Our Savior; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise for ever and ever. Amen.

Light your candle or wreath and pray the daily invocation:

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God of the waiting ones, give us your good word for our souls.

God of the watching ones, the waiting ones,

the slow and suffering ones,

give us your benediction, your good word for our souls,

that we might rest and rise in the kindness of your presence.

Prayerful Silence

Bask in the glow of the candle(s) and take one or more minutes of prayerful silence as you feel led.

Daily Scripture Readings

12/2: Exodus 3:1-10 12/9: Matthew 5:1-12 12/16: Exodus 6:2-8 12/23: Luke 9:28-36 St. Gregory of Nissa: "When Moses went up into the mountain and was completely surrounded by the divine darkness, he stayed there, and the people below received the Law. For the one who draws near to God enters into the mystery, leaving behind the perception of things seen, and rises to what is beyond sight and comprehension. The Law was given through Moses, but what he saw was not law—it was God. Thus, Moses becomes the mediator not merely of commandments, but of encounter. And in that holy darkness, he learned that true knowledge of God comes not through clarity, but through awe." (from The Life of Moses)

Concluding Prayer and Anthem

O Adonai, leader of Israel, You appeared to Moses in a burning bush and gave to him the law on Mount Sinai.

 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{O}}$ come and save us again with Your mighty power.

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might/ Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height, In ancient times didst give Thy law/ In cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel/Shall come to thee, O Israel.



Wednesday: "O Oriens" ("O Dayspring")

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, in your resurrection
you appeared as the Morning Star
that knows no setting: Dawn upon the darkness
of the human heart so that the deathly orders of this world may be
overcome and your whole creation made new; for with the Father
and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Light your candle or wreath and pray the daily invocation:

God of the watching ones, give us your benediction.
God of the waiting ones, give us your good word for our souls.
God of the watching ones, the waiting ones,

the slow and suffering ones, give us your benediction, your good word for our souls, that we might rest and rise in the kindness of your presence.



Prayerful Silence

Bask in the glow of the candle(s) nd take one or more minutes of prayerful silence as you feel led.

Daily Scripture Readings

12/3: Luke 2:25-32 12/10: Malachi 4:1-6 12/17: Revelation 22:1-5 12/24: John 1:1-14 Fleming Rutledge: "The acts of God are often hidden and must be discerned by faith; in the now, we often feel that we are stumbling in the dark. But in the not-yet, ahead of us, shines the Light of the World, the Daystar from on high, the "light to lighten the gentiles." He comes to us from the future that belongs only to God, a future guaranteed by the One who created the world ex nihilo — out of nothing — in the beginning... Such is the background of the Advent announcement that bursts upon a world in captivity: 'Comfort ye, comfort ye my people.'" (From Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ)

Concluding Prayer and Anthem

O Rising Son, You are the splendor of eternal light, and the sun of justice. O come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer /
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night /
And death's dark shadows put to flight:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Thursday: "O Clavis David" ("Key of David")

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, your Son, Jesus Christ opened wide the gate of heaven, making plain the way that leads to eternal joy: Grant that we who have been buried with Christ



in baptism and raised to new life may strive courageously for the freedom and peace of the world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Light your candle or wreath and pray the daily invocation:

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God of the waiting ones, give us your good word for our souls.
God of the watching ones, the waiting ones,

the slow and suffering ones, give us your benediction, your good word for our souls, that we might rest and rise in the kindness of your presence.

Prayerful Silence

Bask in the glow of the candle(s) and take one or more minutes of prayerful silence as you feel led.

Daily Scripture Readings

12/4: Revelation 3:7-13 12/11: Psalm 102:18-28 12/18: Daniel 7:7-14 12/25: Luke 2:1-7 George MacDonald: "The fire of God, which is his essential being, his love, his creative power, is a fire unlike its earthly symbol in this, that it is only at a distance it burns—that the farther from him it burns the worse, and that when we turn and begin to approach him, the burning begins to change to comfort, which comfort will grow to such bliss that the heart at length cries out with a gladness no other gladness can reach, 'Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is nothing upon earth that I desire besides thee!" (from Creation in Christ)

Concluding Prayer and Anthem

O Key of David and Sceptre of Israel: What You open, no one closes again; what You close, no one can open.

O come to lead the captives from prison;

Free those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death!

O come, Thou Key of David, come /
And open wide our kingdom home;
Make safe the way that leads to life /
And close the path of misery:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / Shall come to thee, O Israel.



Friday: "O Rex Gentium" ("O King of the Nations")

Opening Prayer

Almighty and everlasting God,
whose will it is to restore all things
in your well-beloved Son,
the King of kings and Lord of lords:
Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth,
divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought
together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



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God of the waiting ones, give us your good word for our souls.
God of the watching ones, the waiting ones,

the slow and suffering ones, aive us your benediction, your good word

give us your benediction, your good word for our souls, that we might rest and rise in the kindness of your presence.



Prayerful Silence

Bask in the glow of the candle(s) and take one or more minutes of prayerful silence as you feel led.

Daily Scripture Readings

12/5: Psalm 2:1-8 12/12: 1 Chronicles 7:7-14

12/19: Revelation 12:1-11

12/26: Luke 2:8-14

Concluding Prayer and Anthem

O King whom all the peoples desire,

You are the cornerstone which makes all one.

O come and save us whom You made from the clay.

O come, Desire of Nations, bind /
All peoples in one heart and mind.
Bid all the strife and quarrels cease /
And fill the world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Stanley Hauerwas: "Christians are prohibited from ever despairing of the possibility of peace in the world. As God's creatures, we have all been created for peace. Therefore, we must help the world find the habits of peace whose absence so often makes violence seem like the only alternative. In other words, we must deny the necessity of war. We must work toward attitudes and structures for resolving conflicts nonviolently in the world. There is always hope. 'Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness' (James 3:18)." (from Jesus Changes Everything)

Saturday: "O Radix Jesse" ("Root of Jesse")



Opening Prayer

Almighty God, You brought forth a royal branch from the ancient stock of Jesse's line:
Grant that we who have been grafted into this heritage may bear fruit worthy of Jesus Christ; who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. Amen.



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God of the waiting ones, give us your good word for our souls.
God of the watching ones, the waiting ones,



the slow and suffering ones,

give us your benediction, your good word for our souls, that we might rest and rise in the kindness of your presence.

Prayerful Silence

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Daily Scripture Readings

12/6: Isaiah 11:1-10 12/13: Revelation 5:1-10 12/20: Jeremiah 23:3-8 12/27: Luke 2:15-20 Tish Harrison Warren: "Jesus is coming, this time not as a vulnerable baby but as a powerful and conquering king, a merciful and just judge, to subdue sin and death and to birth a new world. Death will be undone. Tears will be wiped away. The tree of life, whose leaves will bring 'the healing of the nations' (Revelation 22:2), will be the divine answer to the tree that brought destruction in the first pages of Genesis. Humanity will dwell again with God in a restored Eden." (from Advent: The Season of Hope)

Concluding Prayer and Anthem

O Root of Jesse, You stand as a signal for the nations. Kings fall silent before You whom the peoples acclaim. Come swiftly to save us — make haste to help us!

O come, Thou rod of Jesse, free / Thine own from Satan's tyranny; From depths of hell Thy people save / And give us victory o'er the grave: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel / Shall come to thee, O Israel.



