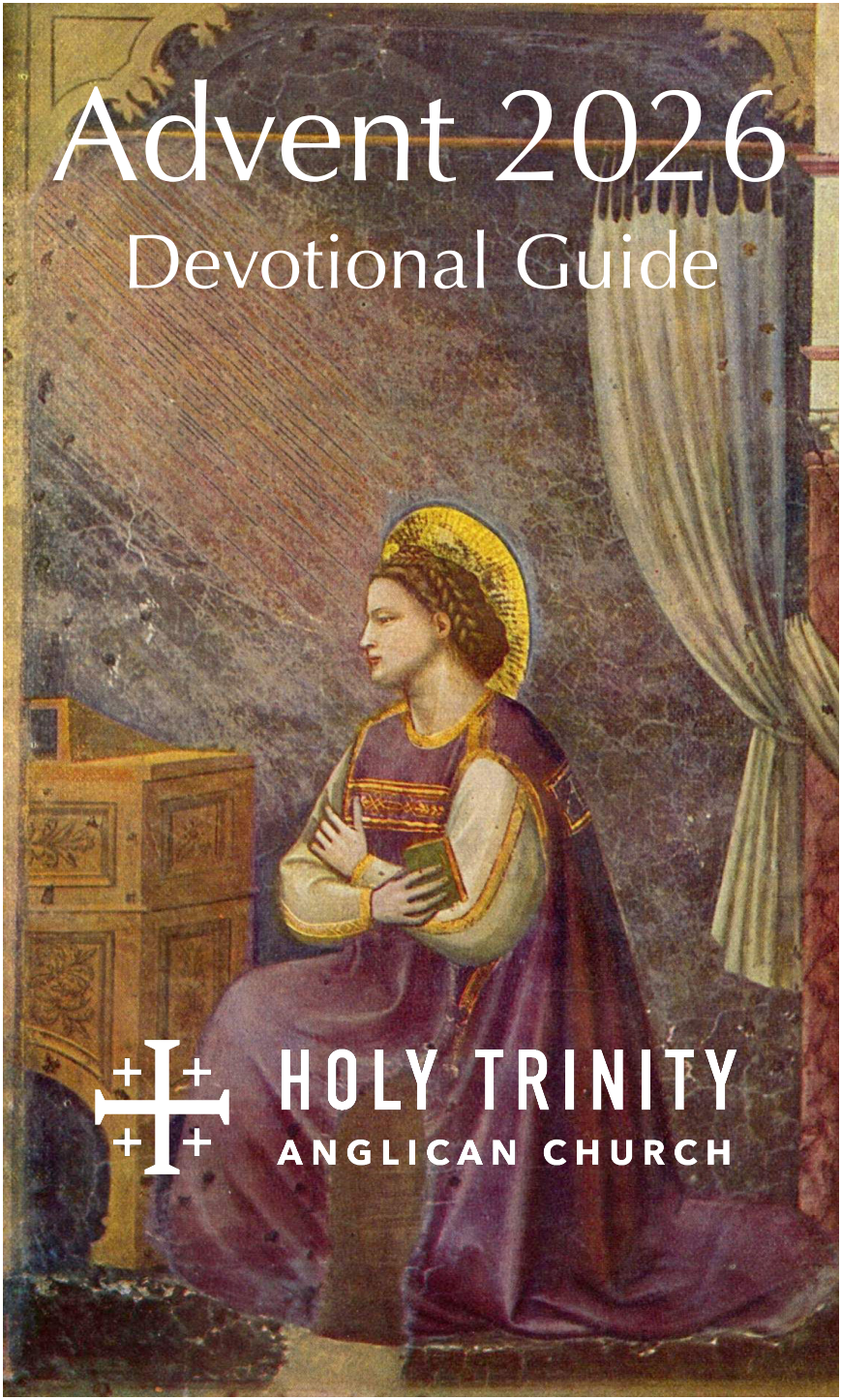
Advent 2026

Devotional Guide



HOLY TRINITY

ANGLICAN CHURCH

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Introduction

The season of Advent derives its name from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "arrival" or "coming"- and in the case of this season, Christ's coming. Early Latin Christians used this Latin word to translate the Greek word *parousía*, which, while also meaning "arrival," especially connoted Christ's *second* coming. In this brief word study, we arrive at the heart of Advent: We ponder the glorious mystery of God the Son being born in the flesh of the Holy Virgin Mary and thus coming to dwell with us; and we simultaneously look forward to his triumphant return when he will take us to himself, that where he is we also may be (John 14:3).

This devotional guide is a resource to help Holy Trinity remember Christ's coming in His incarnation, engage in the reality of His arrival and continuing presence among us, and look forward in hopeful expectation to His coming again.

The guide offers a reading from Scripture, a Collect, and a reflection for each day of Advent, save Sundays. On Sundays, you are instead encouraged to take a break from private devotion as you gather with your brothers and sisters to worship and receive the Lord in the liturgy. The readings from Scripture during the week will take you through the preceding Sunday's four lectionary readings, readings for particular feast days when applicable, and additional readings that center around Advent. The week's collect are also taken from the preceding Sunday, or accord with a feast day. The reflections come from prayers or lines from Christian writers.

May we keep a holy Advent. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Cover art: *Annunciation*, Giotto di Bondone (ca. 1305)

Monday, November 30
(St. Andrew's Day)

The following is said while an Advent candle is lit

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together. Isaiah 40:5

A Reading from Holy Scripture
Matthew 4:18–22; John 1:35-42

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Collect.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect
Almighty God, you gave such grace to your apostle Andrew that he readily obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ, and brought his brother with him: Give us, who are called by your holy Word, grace to follow him without delay, and to bring those near to us into his gracious presence; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Reflection
"Andrew's words [in John 1:41] reveal a soul waiting with the utmost longing for the coming of the Messiah, looking forward to his appearing from heaven, rejoicing when he does appear, and hastening to announce so great an event to others. To support one another in the things of the spirit is the true sign of good will between brothers, of loving kinship and sincere affection."

- St. John Chrysostom

Tuesday, December 1

The following is said while an Advent candle is lit

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together. Isaiah 40:5

A Reading from Holy Scripture
Mark 13:24–37

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Collect.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect
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.

Reflection
"In his last advent he will come in the clouds to judge the quick and the dead, just as he preached of clouds in his first voice which sounded forth in the gospel: 'Then they will see the Son of man coming in clouds with great power and glory.' What is 'then'? Will not the Lord come again in later times, when all the peoples of the earth shall lament? He came first in preaching, and filled the whole wide world. Let us not resist his first coming, that we may not tremble at his second."
- St. Augustine of Hippo

Wednesday, December 2

The following is said while an Advent candle is lit

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed
and all flesh shall see it together. Isaiah 40:5

A Reading from Holy Scripture
I Corinthians 1:1–9

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Collect.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect
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.

Reflection
"During Advent each year, the Christian year teaches us to once again become Israel, recognizing our sin and need, that waiting, longing, hoping, calling, praying for the coming of the Messiah, the advent of justice, and the in-breaking of shalom. We go through the ritual of desiring the kingdom – a kind of holy impatience – by re-enacting Israel's longing for the coming of the King. We are called to be a people of expectancy – looking for the coming (again) of the Messiah."
- James K.A. Smith

Thursday, December 3

The following is said while an Advent candle is lit

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together. Isaiah 40:5

A Reading from Holy Scripture
Psalm 80

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Collect.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect
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.

Reflection
"When you start with the story of a long-awaited return from exile which is also the forgiveness of sins; when you start with the unfinished narrative of YHWH and his dealings with his people; when you hold in your minds the promise that when all other help fails then Israel's God will come in person to rescue and deliver; and when you start with the symbol of the temple in which heaven and earth belong together as a sign of creation and new creation, with a human being, a king or a priest, standing there to complete the picture in offering a true sacrifice; then it makes sense, glorious sense, world-shattering sense, heaven-and-earth sense to see Jesus of Nazareth as the climax of this story, the fulfilment of this symbol, the living embodiment of this God." - N.T. Wright

Friday, December 4

The following is said while an Advent candle is lit

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together. Isaiah 40:5

A Reading from Holy Scripture
Isaiah 64:1–9a

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Collect.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect
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.

Reflection
"It is a rule of divine action that God does such things as no one expects. This [Isa. 64] is a great text for consoling the faith of the weak. In the works of God His extreme weakness appears so that the conscience despairs as if it were bereft of all help and protection. When God's help comes, it comes in such a way that no one would have expected it, so that anguish and despair of the heart make their presence felt. [...] So we groan and sigh and hope for little, and as we pray we confine ourselves to something small. Yet God hears in such a way that He grants far more than we dare to ask for in our prayer."
- Martin Luther

Saturday, December 5

The following is said while an Advent candle is lit

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together. Isaiah 40:5

A Reading from Holy Scripture
Isaiah 9:2-6

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Collect.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect
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.

Reflection
"Now, what king is there who bears the ensign of his dominion upon his shoulder, and not rather upon his head as a diadem, or in his hand as a scepter, or else as a mark in some royal apparel? But the one new King of the new ages, Jesus Christ, carried on his shoulder both the power and the excellence of his new glory, even his cross; so that, according to our former prophecy, he might thenceforth reign from the tree as Lord."

- Tertullian

Monday, December 7

The following is said while an Advent candle is lit

Restore us, O Lord God
Show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved. Psalm 80:19

A Reading from Holy Scripture
Mark 1:1–8

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Collect.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect
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.

Reflection
"People often long for an encounter with God, wanting God to show up and make things right, but if we participate in injustice and oppression, then we are part of the problem that God will show up to deal with and eliminate. John knew that his contemporaries were living in eager anticipation. He warned them that God would indeed show up, but unless they repented, it would be to punish rather than to liberate. In the Advent season of anticipation, there is perhaps no voice from scripture that speaks in a more direct and relevant way than John the Baptist. May we all have ears to hear his message." - James F. McGrath

Tuesday, December 8

The following is said while an Advent candle is lit

Restore us, O Lord God
Show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved. Psalm 80:19

A Reading from Holy Scripture
II Peter 3:8–18

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Collect.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect
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.

Reflection
In our secret yearnings
we wait for your coming,
and in our grinding despair
we doubt that you will.
And in this privileged place
we are surrounded by witnesses who yearn more than do we
and by those who despair more deeply than do we.
Look upon your church in this season of hope
which runs so quickly to fatigue
and in this season of yearning
which becomes so easily quarrelsome.
Give us the grace and the impatience to wait for your coming
to the bottom of our toes,
to the edges of our fingertips.
We do not want our several worlds to end.
Come in your power and come in your weakness in any case
and make all things new. Amen.

- Walter Brueggemann

Wednesday, December 9

The following is said while an Advent candle is lit

Restore us, O Lord God
Show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved. Psalm 80:19

A Reading from Holy Scripture
Psalm 85

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Collect.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect
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.

Reflection

And God held in his hand
A small globe. Look he said.
The son looked. Far off,
As through water, he saw
A scorched land of fierce
Colour. The light burned
There; crusted buildings
Cast their shadows: a bright
Serpent, a river
Uncoiled itself, radiant
With slime.
On a bare
Hill a bare tree saddened
The sky. Many people
Held out their thin arms
To it, as though waiting
For a vanished April
To return to its crossed
Boughs. The son watched
Them. Let me go there, he said.

- R.S. Thomas

Thursday, December 10

The following is said while an Advent candle is lit

Restore us, O Lord God
Show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved. Psalm 80:19

A Reading from Holy Scripture
Isaiah 40:1–11

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Collect.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect
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.

Reflection
This is no time for a child to be born, | With the earth betrayed by war & hate | And a comet slashing the sky to warn | That time runs out & the sun burns late.

That was no time for a child to be born, | In a land in the crushing grip of Rome; |Honour & truth were trampled by scorn — | Yet here did the Saviour make his home.

When is the time for love to be born? | The inn is full on the planet earth, | And by a comet the sky is torn — | Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.

- Madeleine L'Engle

Friday, December 11

The following is said while an Advent candle is lit

Restore us, O Lord God
Show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved. Psalm 80:19

A Reading from Holy Scripture
I Thessalonians 4:13-18

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Collect.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect
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.

Reflection
All that he does for us, and has done, and ever shall do, was never cost or burden to him, nor could be, except only that he died in our manhood, beginning at the sweet Incarnation and lasting until the blessed Rising on Easter morning. That is how long the cost and burden of our redemption in deed lasted, and in that deed he rejoices endlessly.

- Julian of Norwich

Saturday, December 12

The following is said while an Advent candle is lit

Restore us, O Lord God
Show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved. Psalm 80:19

A Reading from Holy Scripture
Luke 1:46–55

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Collect.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect
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.

Reflection
[Mary's] body is about to expand for the body of the Lord, and with this line [Lk. 1:46] of the song, she could be saying that her soul will expand to make way for the greatness of the Lord. Through all Christian traditions, there are reflections on spirituality from a Marian perspective. We are all called, as Paul says to the Galatians (4:19), to have Christ formed in us. Like Mary, we become more full, more fully who God created us to be, when our souls make room for Christ.

- Amy Peeler

Monday, December 14

The following is said while an Advent candle is lit

The kingdom of God is at hand:
O come, let us worship.

A Reading from Holy Scripture
John 1:19–28

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Collect.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect
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.

Reflection

Give you joy, wolf,
when Messiah makes you meek
and turns your roar into a cry that
justice has been done for the poor.

Give you joy, lamb,
when Messiah saves you from
jeopardy
and all fear is overwhelmed
by his converting grace.

Give you joy, wolf and lamb
together,
as Messiah brings worldwide
peace and,
side by side, you shelter
under Jesse's spreading shoot.

- David Grieve

Tuesday, December 15

The following is said while an Advent candle is lit

The kingdom of God is at hand:
O come, let us worship.

A Reading from Holy Scripture
John 3:22–30

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Collect.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect
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.

Reflection
"Just like [John the Baptist], I wish to be aflame with great and holy desires and to surrender myself to You with all my heart. So I offer and lay before You the praises, the worship, which You receive from all zealous hearts - their outbursts of happy praise, their ardent affection, their ecstatic experiences, their spiritual insights and their heavenly visions. I add to these all the goodness and praises that ever have been or will be offered to You in heaven or on earth. I plead them for myself and for all you have been commended to my prayers, so that You may be worthily praised and magnified for ever."
- Thomas à Kempis

Wednesday, December 16

The following is said while an Advent candle is lit

The kingdom of God is at hand:
O come, let us worship.

A Reading from Holy Scripture
I Thessalonians 5:12–28

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Collect.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect
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.

Reflection
The reflections for the next eight devotions consist of the "O Antiphons" which are traditionally recited from Dec. 17 - 23. These antiphons meditate upon different names of Christ, with the first letter of each antiphon, listed backwards, creating the Latin acrostic "ERO CRAS," meaning "Tomorrow, I will come."

O, Sapientia

O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High,
reaching from one end to the other mightily,
and sweetly ordering all things:
Come and teach us the way of prudence.

Thursday, December 17

The following is said while an Advent candle is lit

The kingdom of God is at hand:
O come, let us worship.

A Reading from Holy Scripture
Psalm 126

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Collect.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect
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.

Reflection

O Adonai

O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel,
who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush
and gave him the law on Sinai:
Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

Friday, December 18

The following is said while an Advent candle is lit

The kingdom of God is at hand:
O come, let us worship.

A Reading from Holy Scripture
Isaiah 65:17–25

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Collect.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect
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.

Reflection

O Radix Jesse

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples;
before you kings will shut their mouths,
to you the nations will make their prayer:
Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.

Saturday, December 19

The following is said while an Advent candle is lit

The kingdom of God is at hand:
O come, let us worship.

A Reading from Holy Scripture
Luke 1:46-55

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Collect.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect
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.

Reflection

O Clavis David

O Key of David and sceptre of the House of Israel;
you open and no one can shut;
you shut and no one can open:
Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house,
those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

Monday, December 21
St. Thomas the Apostle

The following is said while an Advent candle is lit

Behold, I am the servant of the Lord;
let it be to me according to your word. Luke 1:38

A Reading from Holy Scripture
John 20:19–29; II Samuel 7:1–17

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Collect.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect
Everliving God, you strengthened your apostle Thomas with firm and certain faith in your Son's resurrection: Grant us so perfectly and without doubt to believe in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, that our faith may never be found wanting in your sight; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Reflection

O Oriens

O Morning Star,
splendour of light eternal and sun of righteousness:
Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

Tuesday, December 22

The following is said while an Advent candle is lit

Behold, I am the servant of the Lord;
let it be to me according to your word. Luke 1:38

A Reading from Holy Scripture
Psalm 132

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Collect.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect
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.

Reflection

O Rex Gentium

O King of the nations, and their desire,
the cornerstone making both one:
Come and save the human race,
which you fashioned from clay.

Wednesday, December 23

The following is said while an Advent candle is lit

Behold, I am the servant of the Lord;
let it be to me according to your word. Luke 1:38

A Reading from Holy Scripture
Romans 16:25–27

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Collect.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect
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.

Reflection

O Emmanuel
O Emmanuel, our King and our lawgiver,
the hope of the nations and their Savior:
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Thursday, December 24
Christmas Eve

The following is said while an Advent candle is lit

Behold, I am the servant of the Lord;
let it be to me according to your word. Luke 1:38

A Reading from Holy Scripture
Luke 1:26–38

A period of silence may follow.

Prayers may be offered for ourselves and others, concluding with the Lord's Prayer and the Collect.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect
O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Reflection

O Virgo Virginum

O Virgin of virgins, how shall this be?
For neither before were there any like you,
nor will there be after.
Daughters of Jerusalem, why do you marvel at me?
The thing which you behold is a divine mystery.