

A NOVENA TO PREPARE FOR THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOUR

Leader: O God, come to our aid.

All: O Lord make haste to help us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia.

Leader: Our Lord and King is drawing near, O come, let us adore Him.

All: Our Lord and King is drawing near, O come, let us adore Him.

Leader: Rejoice, O you daughter of Sion and exult greatly, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, the Lord and Master comes, and there shall be a brilliant light in that day, and the mountains shall drop down sweetness, and hills flow with milk and honey, for in that day the Great Prophet will come, and He Himself will renew Jerusalem.

All: Our Lord and King is drawing near, O come, let us adore Him.

Leader: Behold, the God-man of the house of David will come to sit upon the royal throne, and you will see Him and your heart will rejoice.

All: O come, let us adore Him.

Leader: Behold, the Lord our Protector will come to save us, Israel's holy One, wearing the crown of royalty on His noble brow and He will exercise His rule from sea to shining sea and from the waters of the river to the ends of the earth. **All:** O come, let us adore Him.

Leader: Behold, the Lord and King will appear, and He will not deceive; but if He should delay, wait for Him to come; He will surely come and will not tarry.

All: O come, let us adore Him.

Leader: The Lord will come down like rain upon the fleece of Gideon; justice will thrive and an abundance of true peace; all the kings of the lands of the earth will adore Him, and every nation will serve Him.

All: O come, let us adore Him.

Leader: A Child will be born to us, and He will be called God the almighty; He will sit upon the royal throne of David His father, and He will hold sway, the sign of His power on His shoulder.

All: *O come, let us adore Him.*

Leader: Bethlehem, city of the Most High God, from you will come forth the King of Israel, and He will proceed forth from His eternity; and He will be greatly praised in the midst of the entire universe; and there will be peace in our land when He will have come.

All: *Our Lord and King is drawing near, O come, let us adore Him.*

On Christmas Eve, add:

Leader: Tomorrow the wickedness of the whole world will be destroyed, and over us will reign the Saviour of the world.

All: *Our Lord and King is drawing near, O come, let us adore Him.*

Leader: Near at last is Christ our King. **All:** *O come, let us adore Him.*

Novena Prayer: Hail, and blessed be the hour and moment at which the Son of God was born of a most pure Virgin at a stable at midnight in Bethlehem in the piercing cold. At that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, to hear my prayers and grant my desires. *(Mention your intentions here)* Through Jesus Christ and His most Blessed Mother. Amen.

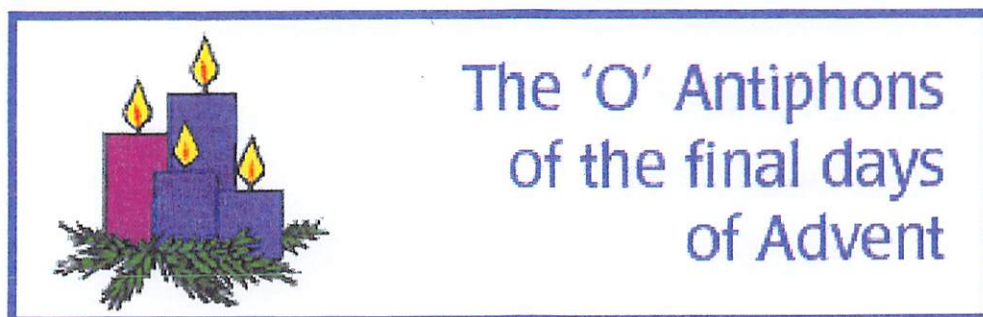
Leader: Blow the trumpet in Sion, **All:** for the day of the Lord is nigh: behold, He will come to save us, alleluia, alleluia!

- Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice. O all you mountains, praise the Lord.
- Let the mountains break forth into gladness, and the hills with justice.
- For the Lord shall come and to the poor He shall show mercy.
- Drop down dew, you heavens, from above and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
- Let the earth be opened and bring forth the Saviour.
- Be mindful of us, O Lord, and visit us in Your salvation.
- Show to us, O Lord, Your mercy, and grant us your salvation.
- Come, O Lord and in peace visit us, that with a perfect heart we may rejoice before You.
- Come, O Lord, do not tarry; do away with the offences of Your people.
- Come and show to us Your countenance, O Lord. You sit upon the cherubim.
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- Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

All: Blow the trumpet in Sion, for the day of the Lord is nigh:
behold, He will come to save us, alleluia, alleluia!

A Scripture Reading for each day (See pages 4-8)



Daily Antiphons for the Magnificat (Said before and after.)

Dec. 16th. Behold, the King will come, the Lord of the earth, and He will remove from us the yoke of our captivity.

Dec. 17th. **O Wisdom**, who came from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from end to end and ordering all things mightily and sweetly, come, and teach us the way of prudence.

Dec. 18th. **O Lord and Ruler of the House of Israel**, who appeared to Moses in the flame of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai, come and redeem us with outstretched arm.

Dec. 19th. **O Root of Jesse**, who stands for an ensign of the people, before whom kings shall keep silence and unto whom the Gentiles shall make supplication, come to deliver us, and tarry not.

Dec. 20th. **O Key of David**, and Sceptre of the House of Israel, who opens and no man shuts, who shuts and no man opens, come and bring forth the captive from his prison, he who sits in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Dec. 21st. **O Rising Sun**, brightness of eternal Light and Sun of Justice, come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Dec. 22nd. **O King of nations** and their desired One, the Cornerstone that makes all one, come, and save our race, whom You formed out of the dust of the earth.

Dec. 23rd. **O Emmanuel**, God with us, our King and Lawgiver, the expected of the nations and their Saviour, come to save us, O Lord our God.

Dec. 24th. With the rising of the sun, you will soon see the King of kings and Lord of lords, coming forth from His Father, as the bridegroom from His bridal chamber.

Magnificat (Said all together)

My ✠ soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.

He looks on his servant in her lowliness;

henceforth all ages shall call me blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him.

He puts forth his arm in strength and scatters the proud-hearted.

He casts the mighty from their thrones and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy,

The mercy promised to our fathers, to Abraham and his sons for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

(All: Repeat the Antiphon for the Day)

Closing Prayer:

Leader: O Lord, hear my prayer. **All:** *And let my cry come to You.*

Leader: Let us pray: Hasten, we beseech You, O Lord; do not delay; grant us the help of supernatural virtue, so that Your coming will be a consolation to those who hope in Your mercy, you who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, world without end. **All:** *Amen.*

Leader: Let us bless the Lord. **All:** *Thanks be to God.*

Leader: May the ✠ souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. **All:** *Amen.*



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH

December 16: 2. 1-5

In days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us

go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

December 17: 9. 1-6

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time, he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time, he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken, as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

December 18: 11. 1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned

child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

December 19: 35. 1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come upon it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

December 20: 40. 1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;

surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear. Say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

December 21: 52. 7-15

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.' Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. Depart, depart, go out from there! Touch no unclean thing; go out from the midst of it, purify yourselves, you who carry the vessels of the Lord. For you shall not go out in haste, and you shall not go in flight; for the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rearguard. See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. Just as there were many who were astonished at him —so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals— so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

December 22: 60. 1-7

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and

frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord. All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; they shall be acceptable on my altar, and I will glorify my glorious house.

December 23: 60: 19-22

The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you by night; but the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your sun shall no more go down, or your moon withdraw itself; for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended. Your people shall all be righteous; they shall possess the land for ever. They are the shoot that I planted, the work of my hands, so that I might be glorified. The least of them shall become a clan, and the smallest one a mighty nation; I am the Lord; in its time I will accomplish it quickly.

December 24: 61. 1-7

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines; but you shall be called priests of the Lord, you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory. Because their shame was double, and dishonour was proclaimed as their lot, therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs.

