

Daily Prayer

Second Sunday of Advent Year B
The Year of Mark



Readings: Isaiah 40: 1–5, 9–11; Psalm 84: 9–14; 2 Peter 3: 8–14; Mark 1: 1–8.

Using Daily Prayer

The following daily prayers can be used in their entirety or adapted to meet the needs of the audience. The prayers draw on the Sunday readings, so you may use any of the prayers on any day, although special focus will be given to Feast days, Solemnities and days of cultural significance. Feel free to adapt the prayers for special occasions or specific intentions of your own class and school.

Readings this Week

This week's readings remind us to prepare the way of the Lord. We cannot sit around in idleness and complacency for we do not know when the Lord will come. We need to be caught doing the right thing, living lives of goodness and kindness, being people of justice, compassion, peace and love.

Overview of the Week

Day and Liturgical Colour	Daily Prayer	Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers and Forms of Prayer
Monday – Violet	<i>O come, O come, Emmanuel.</i>	Praying with Artwork Quiet Reflection Time
Tuesday – Violet	<i>A voice cries out: Prepare the way of the Lord!</i>	Praying with the First Reading Journal Writing Advent Prayer
Wednesday – Violet	<i>Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.</i>	Praying with the Responsorial Psalm Praying with Song or Journal Writing Glory Be
Thursday – Violet	<i>Be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.</i>	Praying with the Second Reading Entrance Antiphon Meditation Time
Friday – Violet	<i>Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.</i>	Praying with the Gospel Advent Prayer with Sign of Peace Our Father

Suggested Teacher Background for the Readings

- Liturgy Help: [Commentaries](#)
- Liturgy Help: [Homilies & Reflections](#)
- Loyola Press: [Sunday Connection](#)
- The Emmaus Series: [Sunday Reflections](#).



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Today's Daily Prayer – O come, O come, Emmanuel

Today, we will focus on the Gospel. **Preparation:** If you have set up an Advent wreath in your prayer space, this week, light the first and second purple candles each day. Choose readers and someone to light the candles.

Monday

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.

Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross slowly, reverently and mindfully.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Light the first and second Advent candles, and pause.

Leader: As we approach the coming feast of Christmas, may we empty our hearts of the desire for more material gifts and, instead, give to each other the gifts of love, peace, hope and joy. May we shine our light out into the world, bringing with it hope-filled words and love-filled service.

All: **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

(Pause)

Listen

Arts & Faith Advent – Second Sunday Imaginative Prayer Exercise

Leader: The Ignatian Spirituality website offers us an opportunity to reflect on the season of Advent using artwork. Let us take this gift and use it to contemplate the message of the Gospel this week: 'Prepare the way of the Lord!'

[Arts & Faith: Second Sunday of Advent.](#)

Respond

Leader: Who are the people in your life who have shown you the face of God? *(Pause)*

Let us take some time to reflect on how they did that. *(Pause)*

Let us pray in gratitude for those people and for the gift they have given you.

Time for quiet reflection ...



Go Forth

Leader: Gracious God,
open our hearts
so that we may receive the message of your coming
with joy and wonder.
Help us to discover the people and places
in the midst of our daily lives
where you meet us with your love and care.
May we be the face of Christ
to all those we meet.
We ask this prayer in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Leader: May we go forth in the knowledge that our lives are formed in faith, hope and love in the light of Christ.

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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Readings: Isaiah 40: 1–5, 9–11; Psalm 84: 9–14; 2 Peter 3: 8–14; Mark 1: 1–8.

Today's Daily Prayer – Prepare the way of the Lord

Today, we will pray with the First Reading. **Preparation:** Each person will need some writing paper and a pen/pencil. Choose readers and someone to light the candles.

Tuesday

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of God present in the Word, in each other and in ourselves. Take a few slow, deep breaths to help us attend to this moment. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.

Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Light the first and second Advent candles, and pause.

Leader: As we light these Advent candles, may the light remind us that you, O Christ, are the light of the world, shining hope and peace to all.

All: **Amen.**

Background to the First Reading

This reading sees the people of God captives in Babylon. They are feeling helpless and hopeless. The prophet Isaiah gives them hope by telling them that God has not abandoned them and will bring them home to a new life. 'Comfort, O comfort my people,' God says. The reading then describes how the terrain will be transformed in preparation for the coming of the Lord. These words are repeated in the Gospel by John the Baptist, thus tying the two readings together.

Listen

Leader: Let us listen attentively to the First Reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Reader: A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

A voice cries out:

In the desert prepare the way of the Lord!

Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!

Every valley shall be filled in,

every mountain and hill shall be made low;



the rugged land shall be made a plain,
the rough country, a broad valley.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together;
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.
Go up onto a high mountain,
Zion, herald of glad tidings;
cry out at the top of your voice,
Jerusalem, herald of good news!
Fear not to cry out and say to the cities of Judah:
Here is your God!
Here comes with power the Lord God,
who rules by his strong arm;
here is his reward with him,
his recompense before him.
Like a shepherd he feeds his flock;
in his arms he gathers the lambs,
carrying them in his bosom,
and leading the ewes with care.

(Pause)

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Respond

Leader: As we continue our Advent journey, let us reflect on the message in this reading.

How can we remove from our own lives the mountains, the valleys and the hills that get in the way of us meeting Jesus?

Take some time to write yourself a letter, at the beginning of this liturgical year.

What kind of changes might we need to make today, during Advent and over the next year to become the kind of person that God wants us to be?

Time for quiet reflection ...

Go Forth

Advent Prayer

Leader: Give us the courage, O Lord, to tear down the mountains that divide us from you.

**All: O come, O come, Emmanuel,
Come into our hearts.**



Leader: Give us the strength, O Lord, to fill in the valleys that keep us away from you.

All: **O come, O come, Emmanuel,**

Come into our hearts.

Leader: Give us the desire, O Lord, to remove all that keeps us from you.

All: **O come, O come, Emmanuel,**

Come into our hearts.

Leader: May we go forth in the knowledge that our lives are formed in faith, hope and love in the light of Christ.

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



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Readings: Isaiah 40: 1–5, 9–11; Psalm 84: 9–14; 2 Peter 3: 8–14; Mark 1: 1–8.

Wednesday

Today's Daily Prayer – Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation

Today, we pray with the Responsorial Psalm. **Preparation:** Each person will need some writing paper and a pen/pencil. Choose readers and someone to light the candles.

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.

Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Light the first and second Advent candles, and pause.

Leader: As we light these candles, we pray this Advent prayer.

All: O come, O come Emmanuel.

**May the light of this candle be a symbol of hope,
a hope that burns within us,
lighting the world with the love and peace
that only Jesus can bring.
Amen.**

Background to the Responsorial Psalm

This psalm was written after the Israelites had returned from captivity in Babylon. They were still struggling to find their feet. The psalmist remembers a time when things were going well and the people were in a right relationship with God. He prays that this may happen again. He looks for a time when peace and justice, kindness and truth will prevail – a time of the Lord. This time will be a complete, healthy and full life lived in right relationship with God. It is a life of peace, a peace only God can bring.

Listen

If possible, the scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the Word of God, and treat the text with reverence.

Leader: Let us pray with the Responsorial Psalm.



Reader: Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

All: **Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

Reader: I will hear what God proclaims;
the Lord – for he proclaims peace to his people.
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,
glory dwelling in our land.

All: **Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

Reader: Kindness and truth shall meet;
justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven.

All: **Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

Reader: The Lord himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him,
and prepare the way of his steps.

All: **Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

Respond

Leader: Let us meditate on the words of the psalm in song:

[‘Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation’](#) by Saint Francis of Assisi
Catholic Church, Florida.

(or)

Leader: The psalm describes what will happen when God is dwelling in our land – kindness, peace, justice and truth shall reign. Write down each word and describe what that looks like for you in today’s world. What can you do to make it happen?

Time for quiet reflection ...

Go Forth

All: **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.**

Leader: Be with us Lord, as we go forth in the knowledge that our lives are formed in faith, hope and love in the light of Christ.

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



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Readings: Isaiah 40: 1–5, 9–11; Psalm 84: 9–14; 2 Peter 3: 8–14; Mark 1: 1–8.

Today's Daily Prayer – Be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace

Today's prayer focuses on the Second Reading. **Preparation:** Choose readers and someone to light the candles.

Thursday

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.

Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Light the first and second Advent candles, and pause.

Leader: As we light these candles, let us say the Entrance Antiphon for last Sunday.

All: **O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.**

Background to the Second Reading

The second letter of Peter was not written to a specific community, but to the early Christians generally. Although it is ascribed to Saint Peter, most scholars agree that it was written after his death. It was written to address the work of false teachers who challenged apostolic traditions. The second letter of Peter explains that God has postponed the Second Coming of Christ in order to give people a chance to turn their lives around, to reject evil and embrace salvation through Christ. It calls on people to wait patiently, and to live good and pure lives in the meantime.

Listen

Leader: Let us listen attentively to the Second Reading.

Reader: A reading from the second letter of Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved,
that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years
and a thousand years like one day.



The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard 'delay',
but he is patient with you,
not wishing that any should perish
but that all should come to repentance.
But the day of the Lord will come like a thief,
and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar
and the elements will be dissolved by fire,
and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.
Since everything is to be dissolved in this way,
what sort of persons ought you to be,
conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion,
waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God,
because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames
and the elements melted by fire.
But according to his promise
we await new heavens and a new earth
in which righteousness dwells.
Therefore, beloved, since you await these things,
be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

(Pause)

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Respond

Meditation

Leader: Sit quietly with your eyes closed, hands in your lap, feet on the floor.

Take a few deep breaths in and out.

Think of the people who are significant in your life – family, friends, classmates, work colleagues, members of your community. Bring their faces to mind.

While we wait for the coming of Jesus at Christmas time, what gifts can we give each other that will truly make a difference to our lives and to our relationships (e.g. acceptance, patience, generosity, compassion)?

Aim to make this gift-giving a priority over the next few weeks and months.

Time for reflective silence ...



Go Forth

Leader: The Advent wreath is a never-ending circle of greenery reminding us that, despite all that is wrong in the world, the love God has for us is never-ending. May we be constantly encircled by God's love, willing to embrace this love and draw others to it.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: We go forth in the knowledge that our lives are formed in faith, hope and love in the light of Christ.

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



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Readings: Isaiah 40: 1–5, 9–11; Psalm 84: 9–14; 2 Peter 3: 8–14; Mark 1: 1–8.

Today's Daily Prayer – A voice of one cries out in the wilderness

Today's prayer focuses on the Gospel. **Preparation:** Choose readers and someone to light the candles.

Friday

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.

Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Light the first and second Advent candles, and pause.

Leader: This Advent, let us ring out the bells of hope, for Jesus is our hope for the world.

All: **Ring out the bells of hope.**

Leader: This Advent, let us ring out the bells of joy, for our joy is in the Lord.

All: **Ring out the bells of joy.**

Leader: This Advent, ring out the bells of peace, for Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

All: **Ring out the bells of peace.**

Leader: This Advent, ring out the bells of love, for God is unending love.

All: **Ring out the bells of love. Amen.**

Listen

The Gospel

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

'Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you;
he will prepare your way.

A voice of one crying out in the desert:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight his paths."



John the Baptist appeared in the desert
proclaiming a baptism of repentance
for the forgiveness of sins.
People of the whole Judean countryside
and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem
were going out to him
and were being baptised by him in the Jordan River
as they acknowledged their sins.
John was clothed in camel's hair,
with a leather belt around his waist.
He fed on locusts and wild honey.
And this is what he proclaimed:
'One mightier than I is coming after me.
I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.
I have baptised you with water;
he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'
(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Sign of Peace

Leader: This Advent, may we prepare the way of the Lord by being people of peace.
God of peace, we commit ourselves to the way of peace that you desire for us.

All: God of peace, we commit ourselves to the way of peace that you desire for us.

Leader: Let us turn and offer the sign of peace to the person on our right.

(Offer peace to the person on your right.)

This Advent, may we prepare the way of the Lord by holding peace within our hearts.

All: God of peace, we want to live in harmony with others.

Leader: Let us turn and offer the sign of peace to the person on our left.

(Offer peace to the person on your left.)

This Advent, may we prepare the way of the Lord by weaving peace into our thoughts,
our words and our deeds.

All: God of peace, with humble and open hearts, help us to seek unity with others.



Leader: Let us turn and offer the sign of peace to another.

(Offer peace to a person on your right.)

This Advent, may we prepare the way of the Lord by seeking peace in our families, in our communities and in all our relationships.

All: **God of peace, may we act with patience, kindness and generosity of mind and spirit.**

Leader: Let us turn and offer the sign of peace to another.

(Offer peace to a person on your left.)

All: **Give us peaceful hearts and peaceful spirits, O God.**

We make this prayer in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Go Forth

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Let us pray together the Our Father.

All: **Our Father ...**

Leader: Let us go forth in the knowledge that our lives are formed in faith, hope and love in the light of Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

