



BIBLE READINGS for Advent - Epiphany

30 November 2025 ~ Advent 1

Psalm 122 [NRSV,A]

Song of Praise and Prayer for Jerusalem

A Song of Ascents. Of David.

¹ I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'

² Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

³ Jerusalem – built as a city that is bound firmly together.

⁴ To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

⁵ For there the thrones for judgement were set up, the thrones of the house of David.

⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you.

⁷ Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.'

⁸ For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, 'Peace be within you.'

⁹ For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

Matthew 24:36-44 [NRSV,A]

The Necessity for Watchfulness

³⁶ 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what

day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

07 December 2025 ~ Advent 2

Psalm 72:1-7; 18-19 [NRSV,A]

Prayer for Guidance and Support for the King Of Solomon.

¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

² May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

⁵ May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

¹⁸ Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

¹⁹ Blessed be his glorious name for ever; may his glory fill the whole earth.

Amen and Amen.

Matthew 3:1-12 [NRSV,A]

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

³ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has

come near.’ ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”’

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?’ ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹‘I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

14 December 2025 ~ Advent 3

Psalm 146:5-10 [NRSV,A]

⁵Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, ⁶who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith for ever; ⁷who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free; ⁸the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

⁹The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰The Lord will reign for ever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

Matthew 11:2-11 [NRSV,A]

Messengers from John the Baptist

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ ⁴Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’

Jesus Praises John the Baptist

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.”

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

21 December 2025 ~ Advent 4

Psalm 80:1-7[17-19 [NRSV,A]

Prayer for Israel’s Restoration

To the leader: on Lilies, a Covenant. Of Asaph. A Psalm.

¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth ²before

Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might, and come to save us!

³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

⁴ O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.

⁶ You make us the scorn of our neighbours; our enemies laugh among themselves.

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

¹⁷ But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.

¹⁸ Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

¹⁹ Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Matthew 1:18-25 [NRSV,A]

The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly.

²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' ²² All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital

relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

25 December 2025 ~ Christmas Day

Psalm 97 [NRSV,A]

The Glory of God's Reign

¹ The Lord is king! Let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!

² Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

³ Fire goes before him, and consumes his adversaries on every side.

⁴ His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

⁵ The mountains melt like wax before the Lord, before the Lord of all the earth.

⁶ The heavens proclaim his righteousness; and all the peoples behold his glory.

⁷ All worshippers of images are put to shame, those who make their boast in worthless idols; all gods bow down before him.

⁸ Zion hears and is glad, and the towns of Judah rejoice, because of your judgements, O God.

⁹ For you, O Lord, are most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

¹⁰ The Lord loves those who hate evil; he guards the lives of his faithful; he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

¹¹ Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the upright in heart.

¹² Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, and give thanks to his holy name!

Luke 2:1-20 [NRSV,A]

The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and

family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’ ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

28 December 2025 ~ Christmas 1

Psalm 148 [NRSV,A]

Praise for God’s Universal Glory

¹ Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

⁵ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created.

⁶ He established them for ever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

⁷ Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,

⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹² Young men and women alike, old and young together!

¹³ Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him.

Praise the Lord!

Matthew 2:13-23 [NRSV,A]

The Escape to Egypt

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

The Massacre of the Infants

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and

around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ ‘A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.’

The Return from Egypt

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ ‘Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.’ ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, ‘He will be called a Nazorean.’

04 January 2026 ~ Christmas 2

Psalm 147:12-20 [NRSV,A]

¹² Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!

Praise your God, O Zion!

¹³ For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he blesses your children within you.

¹⁴ He grants peace within your borders; he fills you with the finest of wheat.

¹⁵ He sends out his command to the earth; his word runs swiftly.

¹⁶ He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.

¹⁷ He hurls down hail like crumbs – who can stand before his cold?

¹⁸ He sends out his word, and melts them; he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.

¹⁹ He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and ordinances to Israel.

²⁰ He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know

his ordinances.
Praise the Lord!

John 1:1-18 [NRSV,A]

The Word Became Flesh

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

06 January 2026 ~ Epiphany

Psalm 72:1-7; 10-14 [NRSV,A]

Prayer for Guidance and Support for the King Of Solomon.

¹ Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.

² May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.

³ May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

⁴ May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.

⁵ May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.

⁶ May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.

⁷ In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.

¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts.

¹¹ May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service.

¹² For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper.

¹³ He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy.

¹⁴ From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

Matthew 2:1-12 [NRSV,A]

The Visit of the Wise Men

² In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.'

³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all

Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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