

Sunday		December 13		Day 15
AM	Psalm 63:1–11; 98	Amos 9:11–15	2 Thessalonians 2	
PM	Psalm 103	John 5:30–47	1 Samuel 16 (Crown)	
Monday		December 14		Day 16
AM	Psalm 41, 52	Zechariah 1:7–17	Revelation 3:7–13	
PM	Psalm 44	Matthew 24:15–31	1 Samuel 17 (Sling)	
Tuesday		December 15		Day 17
AM	Psalm 45	Zechariah 2:1–13	Revelation 3:14–22	
PM	Psalm 47, 48	Matthew 24:32–44	1 Kings 17:1–16; 18:17–46 (Black birds)	
Wednesday		December 16		Day 18
AM	Psalm 119:49–72	Zechariah 3:1–10	Revelation 4:1–8	
PM	Psalm 49	Matthew 24:45–51	Isaiah 6:1–13; 9:1–7 (Tongs with coals)	
Thursday		December 17		Day 19
AM	Psalm 50	Zechariah 4:1–14	Revelation 4:9–5:5	
PM	Psalm 33	Matthew 25:1–13	Jeremiah 8:22–9:11 (Tears)	
Friday		December 18		Day 20
AM	Psalm 40, 54	Zechariah 7:8–8:8	Revelation 5:6–14	
PM	Psalm 51	Matthew 25:14–30	Micah 5:1–5 (Shepherd's crook)	
Saturday		December 19		Day 21
AM	Psalm 55	Zechariah 8:9–17	Revelation 6:1–17	
PM	Psalm 138; 139	Matthew 25:31–46	Habakkuk 1:1–2:3; 3 (Watch tower)	
Sunday		December 20		Day 22
AM	Psalm 24, 29	Genesis 3:8–15	Revelation 12:1–10	
PM	Psalm 8, 84	John 3:16–21	Malachi 4:1–6 (Sun)	
Monday		December 21		Day 23
AM	Psalm 61, 62	Zephaniah 3:14–20	Titus 1:1–16	
PM	Psalm 112, 115	Luke 1:26–38	Luke 1:26–38 (Angel)	
Tuesday		December 22		Day 24
AM	Psalm 66, 67	1 Samuel 2:1–10	Titus 2:1–10	
PM	Psalm 116, 117	Luke 1:39–56	Luke 1:39–56 (Mother & Child)	
Wednesday		December 23		Day 25
AM	Psalm 72	2 Samuel 7:1–17	Titus 2:11–3:8a	
PM	Psalm 111, 113	Luke 1:57–80	Luke 1:57–80 (Pencil)	
Thursday		December 24		Day 26
AM	Psalm 45, 46	Isaiah 59:15b–21	Galatians 3:23–4:7	
PM	Psalm 89:1–29	Matthew 1:18–25	Matthew 1:18–25 (Hammer)	

Advent Devotional

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Adapted with permission from *The Church of the Incarnation*

ADVENT IS A TIME WHEN GOD BREAKS IN ON US

“The first coming of Christ the Lord, God’s Son and our God, was in obscurity; the second will be in the sight of the whole world. When he came in obscurity no one recognized him but his own servants; when he comes openly he will be known by both good people and bad. When he came in obscurity, it was to be judged; when he comes openly it will be to judge” (Augustine, AD 354-430).

The Christian Year

We follow the ancient custom of the Christian calendar for two primary reasons. First, it provides a solid framework within which to *learn* the gospel, the scriptures, and the Christian life. After all, the Bible is a huge, sprawling and complex narrative. The Christian year is a practical and powerful means of *learning* this large story. After all, it leads us through the story of the Bible in the order in which it is written while staying focused on the key events in the life of Jesus: his birth at Christmas, his death on Good Friday, his resurrection on Easter Day, his Ascension forty days later, and his sending of the Spirit at Pentecost. Second, practicing the Christian year is a practical and powerful means of being *transformed* into the image of Christ. You see, “the story you tell with your body, with your outward behaviour and habits, is the story you learn in your heart. The Christian year, if followed through faithfully, becomes a story we tell with our bodies, fasting and feasting by turns, kneeling in adoration at Christmas, following Jesus into the wilderness, singing Hosanna on Palm Sunday, sitting with Jesus at the Last Supper, following him to Calvary, singing for joy by the empty tomb, and so on. This is a time-honoured way of making real in our imagination and experience the story of God and the world which came to climax in Jesus and reaches out in love to us and the whole world.”

The Advent Season

The Christian year does not begin on January 1; it begins with the season of Advent, which starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. The giant-cultural machine of consumerism gone nuts treats this same period of time not as Advent but as the Christmas season. The shopping malls and radio stations shout “Buy! Buy! Buy!” and “Go! Go! Go!” and “Do! Do! Do!” But the Church shouts “Wait! Slow down! Listen! Remember! and Prepare!”

The Advent Scripture Readings

During Advent, our Scripture readings lead us to recall, simultaneously, “the preparation of Israel and the world for the coming of Jesus at Christmas and the preparation of the church and the world for his final second coming.” These two moments in history are umbilically joined together. The first is not only the preparation for the second; it forms a kind of template for it: preparing for Christmas teaches us how to prepare for the great and massive Advent that is still to come in the future. So during Advent we remember the great promises of both the Old and New Testaments “that one day the God who created the world will flood it with his glory, transforming it so that it thrills and throbs with his love, justice and peace.” In this renewed cosmos, we will have renewed “bodies and new tasks to perform, celebrating and implementing God’s victory over evil, injustice and death itself...[But] this Advent hope, this second-coming hope, isn’t something that will arrive simply by the steady work of the church, the eventual climax of a long, slow process. It will be a fresh act of grace, of new creation, completing what was done in the cross, the resurrection and the ascension, but also going way beyond them in the remaking of the entire cosmos.” To be a Christian is to learn “to live appropriately between the two ‘comings’, under the rescuing rule of Jesus and in the power of the Spirit.”

The Spiritual Pilgrimage During Advent

In these wintry weeks leading up to Christmas, let us look to the beginning of the great Story in light of its glorious end. Let us begin the year with our imagination stretched from the garden in Genesis to the city with a garden in Revelation. Let us remember afresh that the evil of this world is doomed to be judged and burned by fire when Christ returns and everything is made new and whole again. Let us more clearly see those habits, relationships, vices, and blockages that hold us in their power. And as we open our lives more fully to God, may we “become more attuned to the joyous wonder of Christ’s incarnation and better prepared for the fierce glory of his return.”

**Last quotation is from Bobby Gross, [Living the Christian Year](#). All other quotations from N. T. Wright, [For All The Saints](#) and N. T. Wright, “Advent Oratorio: Preface.”*

The Scriptures that follow are for use in daily devotions. Scripture in red is for the Jesse Tree.

Sunday November 29 Day 1			
AM	Psalm 146, 147	Amos 1:1—2:8	1 Thessalonians 5:1—11
PM	Psalm 111, 112, 113	Luke 21:5—19	Genesis 1:1—2:3 (Globe & Bird)
Monday November 30 Day 2			
AM	Psalm 1, 2, 3	Amos 2:6—16	2 Peter 1:1—11
PM	Psalm 4, 7	Matthew 21:1—11	Genesis 2:4—3:24 (Fruit & Snake)

Tuesday December 1 Day 3			
AM	Psalm 5, 6	Amos 3:1—11	2 Peter 1:12—21
PM	Psalm 10, 11	Matthew 21:12—22	Genesis 6:11—22; 7:17—8:12,20—9:17 (Ark)
Wednesday December 2 Day 4			
AM	Psalm 119:1—24	Amos 3:12—4:5	2 Peter 3:1—10
PM	Psalm 12, 13, 14	Matthew 21:23—32	Genesis 11:1—9 (Tower)
Thursday December 3 Day 5			
AM	Psalm 18:1—20	Amos 4:6—13	2 Peter 3:11—18
PM	Psalm 18:21—50	Matthew 21:33—46	Genesis 12:1—7; 15:1—6 (Stars)
Friday December 4 Day 6			
AM	Psalm 16, 17	Amos 5:1—17	Jude 1—16
PM	Psalm 22	Matthew 22:1—14	Genesis 22:1—19 (Ram)
Saturday December 5 Day 7			
AM	Psalm 20, 21	Amos 5:18—27	Jude 17—25
PM	Psalm 110, 116, 117	Matthew 22:15—22	Genesis 28:10—22 (Ladder)
Sunday December 6 Day 8			
AM	Psalm 148, 149, 150	Amos 6:1—14	2 Thessalonians 1:5—12
PM	Psalm 114, 115	Luke 1:57—68	Genesis 37; 41—46:7 (Rainbow cloak)
Monday December 7 Day 9			
AM	Psalm 25	Amos 7:1—9	Revelation 1:1—8
PM	Psalm 9, 15	Matthew 22:23—33	Exodus 2:1—3:22 (Burning bush)
Tuesday December 8 Day 10			
AM	Psalm 26, 28	Amos 7:10—17	Revelation 1:9—16
PM	Psalm 36, 39	Matthew 22:34—46	Exodus 12:1—36 (Lamb)
Wednesday December 9 Day 11			
AM	Psalm 38	Amos 8:1—14	Revelation 1:17—2:7
PM	Psalm 119:25—48	Matthew 23:1—12	Exodus 14:1—31 (Fire / Clouds)
Thursday December 10 Day 12			
AM	Psalm 37:1—18	Amos 9:1—10	Revelation 2:8—17
PM	Psalm 37:19—40	Matthew 23:13—26	Exodus 19:16—20:20 (Stone tablets)
Friday December 11 Day 13			
AM	Psalm 31	Haggai 1:1—15	Revelation 2:18—29
PM	Psalm 35	Matthew 23:27—39	Joshua 1:1—11; 6:1—20 (Shofar)
Saturday December 12 Day 14			
AM	Psalm 30, 32	Haggai 2:1—9	Revelation 3:1—6
PM	Psalm 42, 43	Matthew 24:1—14	Ruth 1:1—2:13; 4 (Wheat)

