

MORNING PRAYER

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all, to you be praise and glory for ever. In your tender compassion the dawn from on high is breaking upon us to dispel the lingering shadows of night. As we look for your coming among us this day, open our eyes to behold your presence and strengthen our hands to do your will, that the world may rejoice and give you praise. **Amen.**

PSALM 19

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Or Daily Office Lectionary from page 937 of the Book of Common Prayer

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Isaiah 13:6-13</i>	<i>John 3:22-30</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Isaiah 8:16—9:1</i>	<i>Luke 22:39-53</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Isaiah 9:1-7</i>	<i>Luke 22:54-69</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Isaiah 9:8-17</i>	<i>Mark 1:1-8</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Isaiah 9:18—10:4</i>	<i>Matthew 3:1-12</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>Isaiah 10:5-19</i>	<i>Matthew 11:2-15</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Isaiah 10:20-27</i>	<i>Luke 3:1-9</i>

REFLECTIONS: SILENT AND WRITTEN

PRAYERS

The Church throughout the World
The World: for peace and goodwill among neighbors
Our Nation and her Leaders
Our Community
Grace Episcopal Church
My own Thanksgivings and Concerns

THE LORD'S PRAYER

COLLECT

Father in heaven, by your grace the virgin mother of your incarnate Son was blessed in bearing him, but still more blessed in keeping your word: Grant us who honor the exaltation of her lowliness to follow the example of her devotion to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *Romans 15:13*

EVENING PRAYER

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense,
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Psalm 141:2

PSALM 4

READING FROM SCRIPTURE

Or Daily Office Lectionary from page 937 of the Book of Common Prayer

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Hebrews 12:18-29</i>	<i>John 3:22-30</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>2 Peter 1:1-11</i>	<i>Luke 22:39-53</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>2 Peter 1:12-21</i>	<i>Luke 22:54-69</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>2 Peter 2:1-10a</i>	<i>Mark 1:1-8</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>2 Peter 2:10b-16</i>	<i>Matthew 3:1-12</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>2 Peter 2:17-22</i>	<i>Matthew 11:2-15</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Jude 17-25</i>	<i>Luke 3:1-9</i>

REFLECTIONS: SILENT AND WRITTEN

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. **Amen.**

COLLECT

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SONG OF SIMEON

Lord, you now have set your servant free*
to go in peace as you have promised;
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:
A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. **Amen.**

WEEK TWO: PUTTING OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

Advent always ends up swirling around Mary the Mother of Christ. In particular we end up around the question of her blessed identity as the Virgin. But her identity is not about her. Her identity is bound up in her son's.

It is his identity that makes sense of her designation as the Virgin, not vice versa. This is important because to see it the other way is to obliterate Mary as faithful, courageous follower of God. The meek and mild Virgin Mary can be a way around her model for us in the Bible.

Mary is brave and prophetic. She is clearly marked as a prophet in Luke's account of the birth of Jesus. She is called, responds, and proclaims God's judgment in her song the Magnificat. Even Mary's tradition in the Latin church of bodily assumption is associated with Moses and Elijah. So Mary is not meek and mild.

Mary is faithful to God in carrying Jesus even under the eyes of scorn and social pressure. She trusts the promises of God. She acts.

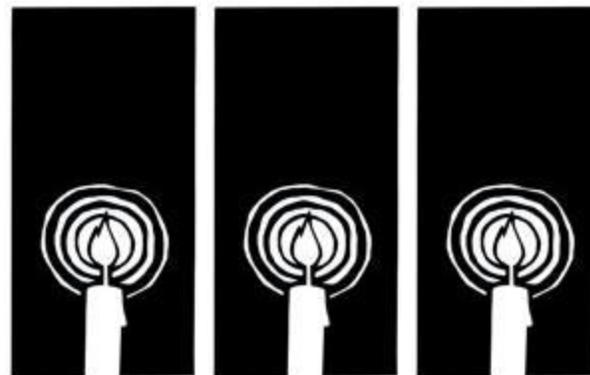
Advent seems very passive when we say that it is about waiting. But the truth is that the waiting of Advent gets at our identity in Christ. It is about our trust, our courage, our actions.

Advent is about our trust that justice and peace prevail in a world that seems unjust and cruel. Our trust is that Jesus is the truth, God's son who makes us by his will sons and daughters of God. Our trust has to be reaffirmed day after day, or it becomes muddied by the pessimism of consumerism and despair.

Courage is necessary when the world campaigns against the foolish hope of faith. It is a fool's hope to work for justice and peace when the fatalism of the day says that the strong one wins and the meek inherit the dust. We must follow Mary's lead and have the faith in God to act on hope.

Here at Grace, we are all involved in the act of embodying the narrative of Christ, weekly in the Eucharist, and annually in the cycle of feasts. In Advent, we pause at Mary's visage and remember her trust and courage, her prophetic voice. And we are called to act in the name of her Son our Lord. We begin always at the Bible and prayer. Join us.

Worship, Study, and Service with an ethic of Welcome. That is how we incarnate Grace. It's our way of life.



ADVENT DAILY PRAYER

Week Three

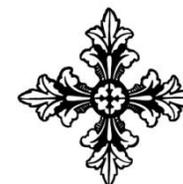
*The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.
Isaiah 40:5*

CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess to you,
before the whole company of heaven and one another,
that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do.

Forgive us our sins, heal us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life in Christ. **Amen.**

O, Lord, open our lips,
and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Since 1867