

**CONFESSING CHRIST - DAILY LECTIONARY AND PRAYERS**

**Advent-Christmas-Epiphany Seasons, 2009-2010**

Frederick R. Trost and Colleen Darling, Editors

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

(Zechariah 9:9)

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First Sunday in Advent, 11/29	Psalm 25:1-10	Leonard Zecchini Lyndeborough, NH
Monday, 11/30	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Walter Ziegenhals Burlington, NC
Tuesday, 12/01	Psalm 24	Reynold Ziegler Camp Hill, PA
Wednesday, 12/02	1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 +1980 Maura Clarke +1980 Jean Donovan +1980 Ita Ford +1980 Dorothy Kazel	Lowell Zuck St. Louis, MO
Thursday, 12/03	Hebrews 10:19-25	Hans-Juergen Abromeit Greifswald, Germany
Friday, 12/04	1 Timothy 1:12-15 +306 St. Barbara	Clifford B. Anderson Cranbury, NJ
Saturday, 12/05	Joel 2:21-22 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott +1791 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	F. Christopher Anderson York, PA
Second Sunday in Advent, 12/06	Luke 3:1-6 +343 St. Nicholas	Franklin Anderson E. Waterboro, ME
Monday, 12/07	Philippians 1:3-11 1965 Gaudium et Spes	Ralph Anderson West Seneca, NY

Tuesday, 12/08	Malachi 3:1-4 +1691 Richard Baxter +1977 Sr. Alice Domon (Disappeared, Argentina, Mothers of May Square)	Rupert E. Annis Topsfield, MA
Wednesday, 12/09	James 5:7-8	Otto Artopoeus Bellevue, KY
Thursday, 12/10	Luke 21:25-33 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights +1968 Karl Barth +1968 Thomas Merton +1977 Sr. Leonie Duquet (Disappeared Argentina, Mothers of May Square)	Sally S. Bailey Raleigh, NC
Friday, 12/11	Isaiah 26: 1-13	William Baran Kittery Point, ME
Saturday, 12/12	Matthew 7:24-27	William Barker S. Wellfleet, MA
Third Sunday in Advent, 12/13	Philippians 4: 4-7	Linda Barnes Colchester, CT
Monday, 12/14	Isaiah 11: 1-3	Carroll Bartholomew Newton, NC
Tuesday, 12/15	Isaiah 11:3-5 1791, Bill of Rights	Martha Ann Baumer Belleville, IL
Wednesday, 12/16	Isaiah 11:6-10	Thomas Bentz Milwaukee, WI
Thursday, 12/17	Isaiah 2:2-6	Hans Berthold Schwerte, Germany
Friday, 12/18	Hosea 145-7 1865 Abolition of Slavery (U.S.) *1946 Steve Biko	Gerald & Cynthia Bertsch Sheboygan, WI
Saturday, 12/19	Mark 1:1-8 +220, Clement of Alexandria	David Biebighauser Ipswich, SD

Fourth Sunday in Advent, 12/20	Micah 5:1-5a	Eugene Birmingham Bensenville, IL
Monday, 12/21	Luke 1:39-45	Cathie Fisher Braman Fredericksburg, VA
Tuesday, 12/22	Luke 1:46-55	Charles Brizius Elkhorn, WI
Wednesday, 12/23	Psalms 102:18-22	Robert F. Broeder Le Sueur, MN
Christmas Eve, 12/24	Luke 2:1-14	Calvin Brown Etobicoke, Ontario
Christmas Day, 12/25	Luke 2:15-20	Richard S. Brueseke Owensville, MO
Saturday, 12/26	Psalms 96 Day of St. Stephen, Martyr	Martin Bupp Chalfont, PA
First Sunday after Christmas, 12/27	John 1:1-5 Day of St. John the Evangelist	John Burgess Pittsburgh, PA
Monday, 12/28	Psalms 148 Day of Holy Innocents, Martyrs	Christine Busch Dusseldorf, Germany
Tuesday, 12/29	Luke 2:25-32	Michael Caldwell Wolcott, VT
Wednesday, 12/30	Luke 2:36-40 +1968 Hans Asmussen	John Cedarleaf Fairport, NY
New Year's Eve, 12/31	Psalms 103:1-14 1915 Fellowship of Reconciliation	Richard Christensen Sheboygan, WI
New Year's Day, 1/01	Psalms 8 *1484 Huldreich Zwingli 1863 Emancipation Proclamation Day of Prayer for Peace	Vernon Clausing West Bend, WI

Saturday, 1/02	Ecclesiastes 3:1-15	Richard & Ruthie Coleman Pembroke, MA
Second Sunday after Christmas, 01/03	John 1:6-13	Herbert Davis Dedham, MA
Monday, 1/04	John 1:14-18	James G. Deitz Amherst, OH
Tuesday, 1/05	John 1:19-23	Uwe Dittmer Potsdam, Germany
Festival of the Epiphany, 1/06	Matthew 2:1-12	Vernon Dolde Wausau, WI
Thursday, 1/07 Eastern Orthodox Christmas	Isaiah 60:1-6	Pam Doore Delaware, OH
Friday, 1/08	Matthew 2:13-15 *1894 Maximilian Kolbe +1996 Sadao Watanabe	Wayne Drueck Schofield, WI
Saturday, 1/09	Matthew 2:16-18	Chet Dziczek Clinton, MA
First Sunday after Epiphany, 1/10	Psalms 147	Roger Easland Pierre, SD
Monday, 1/11	Luke 2:39-52 *1907 Abraham Joshua Heschel	Willis Elliott Kearney, NE
Tuesday, 1/12	Matthew 2:19-23 1957 Southern Christian Leadership Conference	Marion Ellis Newmarket, NH
Wednesday, 1/13	Luke 3:1-9 +1691 George Fox *1931 Maura Clarke	John Esbenshade Lancaster, PA
Thursday, 1/14	Luke 3:10-14 +368 Hilary of Poitiers *1875 Albert Schweitzer	Gabriel & Dorothy Fackre West Hyannisport, MA
Friday, 1/15	Luke 3:15-20 *1929 Martin Luther King, Jr.	Ralph Faisst West Bend, WI

Saturday, 1/16	Luke 3:21-22 1992 El Salvador Peace Accords	William Falla Whitehall, PA
Second Sunday after Epiphany, 1/17 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	Isaiah 62:1-5	J. W. & Patricia Fiegenbaum Amherst, MA
Monday, 1/18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Luke 4:1-4	David Fisher Brooklyn, NY
Tuesday, 1/19	Luke 4:5-8 1563 Heidelberg Catechism	Richard & Martha Floyd Pittsfield, MA
Wednesday, 1/20	Luke 4:9-13 1529 Luther's "Small Catechism" 1993 Guatemalan refugees return from southern Mexico	Jerry Folk Madison, WI
Thursday, 1/21	Luke 4:14-24	Ron K. Freyer-Nicholas Wildwood, FL
Friday, 1/22	Luke 4:31-37	Hans-Wilhelm Fricke-Hein Neukirchen-Vluyn, Germany
Saturday, 1/23	Luke 4:38-44	Theodore Fritsch North Chatham, MA
Last Sunday after Epiphany, 1/24	Psalms 19:1-4a	Michael Frost Kresgeville, PA
Monday, 1/25	Psalms 19:4b-6 +1586 Lucas Cranach the Younger *1925 Ernesto Cardenal	P.V. George Syracuse, NY
Tuesday, 1/26	Psalms 19:7-10 +Polycarp 1945 Liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau	Richard Glatfelter Monroe, OH
Wednesday, 1/27	Psalms 19:11-14 1967 Outer Space Weapon Treaty	Milton E. Gockley, Jr. Williamsburg, VA
Thursday, 1/28	John 1:19-28 +1972 Mahalia Jackson	Peter Goguts Wernersville, PA

Friday, 1/29	John 1:29-34	Charlotte P. Gosselink Kennett Square, PA
Saturday, 1/30	John 1:35-51 +1948 Mahatma Gandhi	Stephen Gould Sheboygan, WI
Sunday, Septuagesima, 1/31	1 Corinthians 1:1-13 *1915 Thomas Merton +1955 John R. Mott	Kathryn Greene-McCreight New Haven, CT
Monday, 2/01	Psalm 67 +110 Ignatius of Antioch	Christa Gregel Berlin, Germany
Tuesday, 2/02	Psalm 71: 1-6 +1945 Alfred Delp	Reinhard Groscurth Bremen, Germany
Wednesday, 2/03	Psalm 71:17-18 *1909 Simone Weil	Ruben Grosshuesch Sheboygan, WI
Thursday, 2/04	Jeremiah 1:4-10 *1906 Dietrich Bonhoeffer *1913 Rosa Parks	Linda Gruber Phoenixville, PA
Friday, 2/05	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	Robert C. Hamilton Davenport, IA
Saturday, 2/06	1 Corinthians 12:12-31	Joanne Hartunian Belmont, MA
Sunday, Sexagesima, 2/07	Luke 5: 1-11 *1909 Dom Helder Camara	Ester Haskell Claremont, MA
Monday, 2/08	Psalm 138 *1878 Martin Buber	Philip Haslanger Madison, WI
Tuesday, 2/09	Luke 9:18-22	Steven Hecky Southgate, KY
Wednesday, 2/10	Luke 9:23-27	Kristin Herzog Durham, NC

Thursday, 2/11	Luke 9:28-36 1531 Reformation in England 1889 Freedom of Religion in Japan 1990 Nelson Mandela freed	Hans Holznagel Cleveland, OH
Friday, 2/12	Luke 9:37-45 *1809 Abraham Lincoln *1817 Frederick Douglas 1909 NAACP founded	Ralph E. Houseman Grafton, WI
Saturday, 2/13	Luke 9:46-62 +1984 Roland H. Bainton	Robert E. Howell Walnut Creek, CA
Sunday, Estomihi, 2/14	Psalms 101:1-4 1967 Latin America Nuclear Free Zone Treaty	Robert G. Hunsicker Lancaster, PA
Monday, 2/15	Psalms 105: 1-6 *1564 Galileo *1820 Susan B. Anthony	Joan Hunt Weston, MA
Tuesday, 2/16	Psalms 108:1-4 +1977 Janani Luwum, Uganda	Dorothy Hutch Branford, CT

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## PRAYERS FOR ADVENT-CHRISTMAS-EPIPHANY, 2009-2010

## Prayers in Advent

Lord our God, we thank you for letting hosannas rise from people's hearts and for letting us cry out to you all the more fervently in dark times. Help us, O Almighty God, and help your king, Jesus Christ, to his final victory. For he shall be victor, bringing grace, peace, life, and victory for all that is good, on earth as in heaven. He shall be victor at all times in our lives, enabling us to keep faith in trouble, fear, and need, yes, even in death. Hosanna to the victor, Jesus Christ, the victor you have chosen! O Almighty God, proclaim him on earth. Let all the people know he is on his way, to the glory of your name. (*Christoph Blumhardt, 1842-1919*)

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At your great Name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow; All things on earth with one accord, like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord. Come in your holy might, we pray, Redeem us for eternal day; Defend us while we dwell below, from all assaults of our dread foe. (An Evening hymn in Advent, eighth century C.E.)

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Almighty God, grant us grace that we may wait with vigilance for the advent of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, that, when He shall arise from Your right hand to visit the earth in righteousness and Your people with salvation, He may find us, not sleeping in indifference, but diligent in His service and rejoicing in the truth of His coming. (Prayers of the Church of Scotland, adapt.)

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Give grace to all servants of the Word to proclaim the coming of Christ in all the world gladly. Grant that all who hear your word proclaimed may receive it gladly. Help us to learn to know Christ and actually improve our lives through him. Exclude from your holy church all strange doctrines and preaching in which Christ is not made known. Be merciful to all bishops and ministers and to all in authority, that they may be enlightened by your grace and rightly teach and lead us by good word and good example. Protect all who are weak in the faith that they may not be misled by the illusions of any in authority. (adapt., Martin Luther, 1483-1546)

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O Wisdom, you came forth from the mouth of the Most High (Sir. 24:30); and reaching from beginning to end, you ordered all things mightily and sweetly (Wis. 8:1). Come, and teach us the way of prudence (Isa. 40:14).

O Adonai (Lord) and Ruler of the house of Israel (Matt. 2:6), you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush (Exod. 20). Come, and with an outstretched arm redeem us (Jer. 32:21).

O Root of Jesse, you stand for an ensign of humankind (Isa. 11:10); before you kings shall keep silence, and to you all nations shall have recourse (Isa. 52:15). Come, save us, and do not delay (Hab. 2:3).

O Key of David and Scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one closes; you close and no one opens (Isa. 22:22). Come, and deliver those from the chains of prison who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death (Ps. 107:10).

Rising Dawn, Radiance of the Light eternal (Hab. 3:4) and Sun of Justice (Mal. 3:20), come, and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death (Luke 1:78).

O King of the Gentiles and the Desired of all (Hag. 2:8), you are the cornerstone that binds two into one (Eph. 2:20). Come, and save poor humanity who you fashion out of clay (Gen. 2:7).

O Emmanuel (Isa. 7:14), our King and Lawgiver (Gen. 49:10; cf. Ezek. 21:32), the Expected of the nations and their Savior (Isa. 33:22), come, and save us, O Lord our God.

(Days of the Lord, Vol. 1, 1988, Benedictines of Saint-Andre de Clerlande)

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### Prayers in Christmastide

Lord God,... you have sent us the Savior, who was born to bring great joy to all people. Glorify your name, we pray. Give the world the peace you alone can give, the peace that wells up in our hearts. Let your favor rest on us so that we may hold out under our sufferings on earth. We need your loving help to remain inwardly steadfast until everyone can be reached by the message, "Be strong in the grace of Jesus Christ."

(Christoph Blumhardt)

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Child of Bethlehem, house of bread; Man of Jerusalem, city of peace; you have loved us without limit or condition; in our greatness and in our misery, in our folly and in our virtue; may your hand be always upon us and may your heart be within us so that we too may become bread and peace for one another.

(John Hammond, OSB)

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What shall we offer you, O Christ, who for our sakes has appeared on earth as man? Every creature you have made offers you thanks. The angels offer you a hymn; the heavens a star, the magi, gifts; the shepherds, their wonder, the earth, its cave; the wilderness a manger; And we offer you a Virgin Mother.

O God, from everlasting, have mercy upon us.

(Eastern Orthodox)

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In our heart was lost the memory of your face.  
On our faces your image burned no longer.  
Lost and alone, with no guidance to seek you,  
we went astray in the night.

In your pity, you sent, to lift our misery,  
your prophets, who delivered your promise.  
Their words, like a guiding light on the road of hope,  
lead us toward you.

Behold, the Virgin has conceived and the prophecies are fulfilled.  
Your love and truth shine forth.  
Under the veil of flesh, your unapproachable light

invades our shadow of death.

Not all have seen! We believe,  
illuminated by your mystery, in your Word, we call you our Father.  
Today, end our tears! Your incorruptible seed has borne fruit in our hearts.

(Days of the Lord, Vol. 1, 1988, Benedictines of Saint-Andre de Clerlande)

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Of the Father's heart begotten, Ere the world from chaos rose,  
He is Alpha: from that fountain All that is and hath been flows;  
He is Omega, of all things Yet to come the mystic close.  
Evermore and evermore.

By his word was all created; He commanded and 'twas done;  
Earth and sky and boundless ocean, Universe of three in one,  
All that sees the moon's soft radiance, All that breathes beneath the sun.  
Evermore and evermore.

O how blest that wondrous birthday When the Maid the curse retrieved,  
Brought to birth humankind's salvation, By the Holy Ghost conceived;  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer, In her loving arms received.  
Evermore and evermore.

This is he, whom seer and sybil Sang in ages long gone by;  
This is he of old revealed in the page of prophecy;  
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour; Let the world his praises cry!  
Evermore and evermore.

Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises; Angels and Archangels, sing!  
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful, Let your joyous anthems ring,  
Every tongue his name confessing, Countless voices answering.  
Evermore and evermore.

(Christmas Processional, Western Rite, Prudentius)

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You, who know the lowly manger, You who caused the star to shine;  
Grant to all who live 'midst danger, trust to sense your grace divine.

Be with all who breathe the darkness, battle-scarred and battle-worn;  
Little children, sisters, brothers; all who bleed 'midst wars...forlorn.

Shake the earth you have created, raise up hope where furies reign;  
Grant that we, who kneel beside you, confess our faith and bear their pain.

(Wisconsin Conference Worship Committee, 1997)

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### Prayers in Epiphany

Lord our God, accept us as your children, whose lives are under your protection and who turn to you for strength. In the midst of all the struggles and temptations in this world, keep us certain of your love and goodness. Grant that we may help your name be honored on earth and your salvation spread over all the world. May the hope you have brought to us bring light and strength to our lives and to all whom you love in Jesus Christ. (Christoph Blumhardt, adapt.)

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O God, who did guide the wise men to behold Your Son, our Lord: show us Your heavenly light, and give us grace to follow until we find Him, and finding Him, rejoice. Grant that, as the wise of old presented gold, frankincense, and myrrh, each of us now may bring Him the offering of a loving heart, an adoring spirit, and an obedient will, for His honor and for Your glory, O God Most High.

(Prayers of the Church of Scotland, adapt.)

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He's got the whole world in His hand.  
He's got the whole world in His hand.  
He's got the woods and the waters in His hand.  
He's got the sun and the moon right in His hand,  
He's got the whole world in His hand.  
He's got the birds and the bees right in His hand,  
He's got the beasts of the field right in His hand,  
He's got the whole world in His hand.  
He's got you and me right in His hand  
He's got the whole wide world in His hand.  
He's got you and me brother in His hand.  
He's got the big round world in His hand,  
He's got the whole world in His hand.

(African-American Spiritual)

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The magi who to Bethlehem did go  
were the heralds of the coming of Messiah;  
And with joy we also would hasten  
to announce the news today:

From distant land we come with humble greeting,  
where the eastern star our caravan is leading.  
To the newborn Child who has no earthly treasure  
I have come with gold to bring delight and pleasure.  
To the Child of God rich incense I am bringing,  
With aroma sweet that heaven-ward is winging.  
To the Child who came to bring us heaven's gladness,  
I have come with myrrh, a sign of coming sadness.

Ever shining star, God's brilliant dawn revealing,  
ever guide our way, God's presence still assuring.

(Puerto Rican Epiphany carol)

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