



CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY

DECEMBER 25, 2023–FEBRUARY 13, 2024 | VOLUME 6 | ISSUE 2

PRAYERS
for Morning & Evening

PRACTICES
for Mind, Body & Spirit

GALLERY
for Contemplation

SONGBOOK
for Adoration





DAILY PRAYER PROJECT

ANIMATING A LIFE OF PRAYER THROUGH THE MANIFOLD BEAUTY OF THE CHURCH

Credits

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

ASHLEY WILLIAMS

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son
from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

—John 1:14

“Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces
shall never be ashamed.”

—Psalm 34:5

Greetings to you in this Christmas and Epiphany season! Our Messiah has left the realm of angels to come down and dwell on earth, the habitat of humans and hippos, dirt and daisies, rivers and roses. We sing with those heavenly hosts, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

In his 2007 book *A Secular Age*, philosopher Charles Taylor

laments the loss of enchantment in the modern (and post-modern) West. Instead, we are surrounded by secularism, which is at its most basic level a contestation of “belief in God, or in the transcendent in any form.” Taylor juxtaposes our current way of life to that of premodern people who lived in an enchanted world “of spirits, demons, and moral forces.” In other words, most of us postmoderns live disenchanted lives in which we believe our trajectories are self-determined rather than orchestrated by a real God “in whom we live and move and have our being” (Acts 17:28).

The scriptures fundamentally deny a disenchanted world. John, a real human like you and me, observing the world through sight, sound, taste, feel, and smell, proclaims in the prologue of his Gospel, “And we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father . . .” Glory, *doxa* in Greek, is the attribution of infinite value, of brightness, of

transcendence—and enchantment. When John says he has seen Jesus’s glory, he has experienced the most marvelous enchantment the world has ever, literally, seen: the real, historical incarnation of Jesus, the Son of God, born to a virgin in a dirty manger.

The story of redemption we rehearse throughout the Christian year, and especially in these seasons of Christmas and Epiphany, serves as our invitation to allow this enchantment to break through unbelief, to allow the light of God’s glory to illuminate every sacred and ordinary moment we encounter. When we do this, we are more fully able to sing with the hymnist, “Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!”

In this edition, we are guided by saints across time and space though the enchanted story of Christ’s birth in history and in us. We return to our rhythm of reciting the ancient “Gloria in excelsis deo” in every morning and evening liturgy. We pray with the Indian saint Chandran Devanesen, “O you who have given me eyes to see the light that fills my room, give me the inward vision to behold you in this place.” We sing along with a Korean song from the US, “Even in the darkest night shines the one who is my

life, and because he walks with me, I will never fear again.” We confess with sister Kari Kristina Reeves, “Search me, and know my heart and life. Examine my actions, words, and thoughts. See where I have not lived in your light.”

Our gallery, too, instructs our vision as we look upon Mary and Jesus while Joseph gazes on in deep wonder in our cover art by Polish artist Paulina Krajewska, *Światłość prawdziwa* (True Light), itself an invitation for us to contemplate, with Joseph, such an enchanted moment. In Badimaya artist Julie Dowling’s *Born for You*, we see the incarnated baby Jesus bidding “everyone come to him, who wears our flesh, and be blessed, to live in the light of his far-reaching gospel.” Lastly, in our practices, spiritual director Adele Calhoun walks us through creating a rule of life to guide us in living countercultural, enchanted lives in which our catalyst for action comes not from the self but from the mysterious and triune God who makes known to us the path of life and in whose presence is fullness of glorious joy.

In this Christmas and Epiphany season, join us in taking up this invitation into the mystery of the gospel—into the transcendent, enchanted story in which God came to earth and will come again. Until then, let us love, sing, wonder, and pray without ceasing.

INTRODUCTION

The Daily Prayer Project (DPP) is a movement that exists to animate the life of prayer through the manifold beauty of the church. We connect and unify Christians by resourcing them with daily prayers, practices, and music from the global-historical church, and visual art of spiritual and artistic value. All of these rich resources are crafted into a simple, functional, and beautiful product: our Living Prayer Periodicals (LPPs). This is what you are holding in your hands right now.

We produce six LPP editions per year that move with the Christian seasons of Advent, Christmas & Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time. These

editions combine dynamic and diverse content with a stable method for morning and evening prayer.

This method not only provides consistency for the life of prayer and practice, but it also forms us all into a life of communion with God and unity with our global and historical family of faith. It is this communal prayer that fuels and forms our own expressions of prayer in the present season of our lives. The DPP is an entrance into the holy, unifying, and empowering experience of praying together in a common way without ceasing throughout the Christian year.



The Daily Prayer Project logo is a monogram crafted into a prayer labyrinth. The mark itself becomes a practice of prayer. Rooted in the ancient Christian tradition of pilgrimage, prayer labyrinths have a history as far back as the fourth century in an Algerian church.

A labyrinth is not a maze. There is one entry point, and a single pathway leading to the center. The journey is a transformative walk toward God, the center of the

labyrinth. Arriving at the center symbolizes union with God. Once a pilgrim has this encounter, they are led back out into the world along the same path.

Walking a labyrinth is a slow, meditative practice. This is a way to embody your prayer. The mark is placed above for you to travel the path of the labyrinth with your finger as a small gesture of this larger practice. We hope that one day you might be able to encounter God as you walk through a physical prayer labyrinth.

Daily Prayer Project Lectionary

A lectionary is a schedule of Bible readings that is meant to help Christians read the whole Bible over a period of time, emphasizing particular themes and narratives during particular seasons of the Christian year. The Daily Prayer Project follows the Sunday (and certain holy day) readings of the Revised Common Lectionary, the largest shared Bible-reading plan in North America. For most Monday–Saturdays, we follow our own Daily Prayer Project Lectionary, which moves through scripture in a slow, three-year cycle. The DPP Lectionary is broken down into three categories of readings from scripture: the Psalms, the Old Testament, and the New Testament. The Old Testament is broken

down into its traditional three parts: (1) **Law & History**, (2) **Wisdom & Poetic Literature**, and (3) **the Prophets**. The New Testament is also broken down into its traditional three sections: (1) **the Four Gospels & Acts**, (2) **the Pauline Epistles**, and (3) **the General Epistles**. Lectionaries are a time-tested tool from the history of the church for maintaining a steady “diet” from the Bible’s different parts. They are specifically designed to lighten the daily load of reading and to help the reader focus in on smaller passages and particular books at a time. This facilitates slower, more meditative reading. Currently, the DPP is in Year B of the lectionary.

	YEAR A	YEAR B	YEAR C
The Psalms	ALL 150 PSALMS 2x/Year	ALL 150 PSALMS 2x/Year	ALL 150 PSALMS 2x/Year
Old Testament	LAW & HISTORY Genesis–Leviticus	LAW & HISTORY Numbers–2 Samuel	LAW & HISTORY 1 Kings–Esther
	WISDOM & POETRY Proverbs & Job	WISDOM & POETRY Proverbs & Ecclesiastes	WISDOM & POETRY Proverbs & Song of Songs
	PROPHETS Isaiah & Minor Prophets (Part I)	PROPHETS Jeremiah, Lamentations & Minor Prophets (Part II)	PROPHETS Ezekiel & Minor Prophets (Part III)
New Testament	GOSPEL & ACTS Matthew, Mark & Acts	GOSPEL & ACTS Luke & Acts	GOSPEL & ACTS John & Acts
	PAULINE EPISTLES Romans–Titus	PAULINE EPISTLES Romans–Titus	PAULINE EPISTLES Romans–Titus
	GENERAL EPISTLES Hebrews–Revelation	GENERAL EPISTLES Hebrews–Revelation	GENERAL EPISTLES Hebrews–Revelation

**Sundays and holy days are from the Revised Common Lectionary*

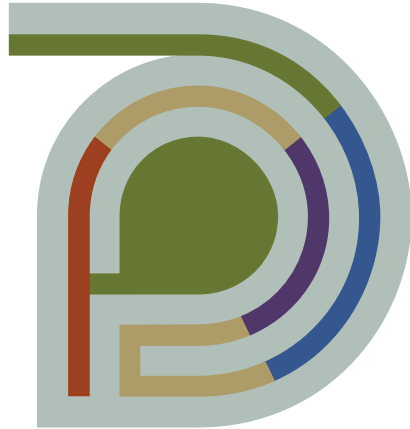
Methods & Elements

Each day of the LPP features morning and evening prayer liturgies framed by seven core elements. Everyone's style of praying is different because every person is different. Beyond that, Christian prayer varies widely across cultures and denominations. No single method can capture this. However, we hope you find within the LPP a rhythm that gives enough structure and freedom to facilitate a diverse community of prayer. Every element is offered as a guiding movement, not as a binding rule. You are encouraged to modify the liturgy based on the context of prayer. Consider establishing rhythms of prayer in your congregation, household, workplace, small groups, or other gatherings so that you might experience the formative reality of common prayer. If doing this liturgy individually, you are encouraged to take your time to soak it in. If doing it as a group, it may be best to alternate leading each element. Also, consider using different postures in prayer (standing, kneeling, lifted or open hands, lying prostrate, etc.) that fit your context.

CALL: There is an invitation always open to us. The Spirit of God calls us to come into the holy presence, and we respond to this welcome by entering in.

PSALM: The Psalms form the core language of prayer for the people of God and have done so for thousands of years. The Psalms give us language and postures of heart and body to express in the presence of God.

ADORATION: We were created to adore God, and in the place of worship we find the joy of this purpose. This adoration happens in both silence and song. We provide three to four songs per edition in the Songbook found on pages 53–57. Full recordings and resources for these songs and others can be found at dailyprayerproject.com. You are also encouraged to sing songs from your own community.



LESSON: The scriptures give us the story of the Father's redemption of all things in the Son by the power of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER: We are led across praise, confession, and guided intercessory prayer by our family of faith all over the globe and throughout time. We receive every prayer as a gift as we put them on our own lips and in our own hearts. These prayers range from traditional prayers of the universal church to more modern and meditative prayers.

ABIDING: In response to what we have encountered in the first five elements, Abiding is an opportunity for deeper communion and self-reflection through meditating on the scriptures (*lectio divina*), considering the art in the gallery (*visio divina*), or using our bodies to engage historical Christian practices (*praxis divina*). Out of that place, we are also prompted to pray for the needs of others in different stations of life.

BENEDICTION: We close our time with a word of love and blessing over our lives from God himself, the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. Our journey of prayer is framed by the Call and the Benediction; God has the first and the last word over all things in our lives.



Nathan Dumlao

Adapting the LPP for Household Prayer

A Five-Element Method

We have often been asked how to adapt the Living Prayer Periodicals for household prayer, especially when that involves small children. It is an important question and one that we want to provide some suggestions for in this Advent edition. These suggestions come after years of practice and experimenting within our own communities and families. The liturgies can be practiced once or twice a day, depending on your household rhythms. In my house, we practice communal prayer around the table once we finish dinner (almost!) every evening.

Disclaimer: If you have small children, prayer time will probably not always be peaceful and beautiful. These times might involve some chaos, disordered noise, fighting, arguing, silly laughter, etc. That's OK! Especially as children begin developing new habits and growing in their ability to pay attention, you are encouraged to let them grow in this way and to take your time growing in prayer together. There is no hurry, and things need not be perfect. The Lord is with you and your family and merely desires your presence. The important part is finding a simple rhythm and sticking to it because children (and adults) thrive on rhythms.

The following suggested method takes the seven core elements of the LPP liturgies and reduces them to five:

CALL

LESSON (Psalm, OT, or NT)

ABIDING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Here are some practical suggestions for implementing this method:

- Before you begin to pray together, select what your Lesson reading is going to be. For example, if the scripture readings that day are Psalm 62, Leviticus 12, and Mark 10, then choose one or a section of one of those to attend to. It will probably be best for those with small children to begin small. If Mark 10 is chosen, then choose just one of the sections of that chapter.
- Before you begin to pray together, distribute the parts of the liturgy to different members of the household. In my household we have five people, so each member is responsible for one movement of the liturgy. If you have children who can read, they might relish the chance to read a different part each day. We keep a chart on the wall with the day, the five elements, and the person's name, giving each person a chance to do different parts throughout the week.
- If children cannot read, worry not! Children also love to do call-and-response, and this is how their language is formed. For my youngest son, who cannot read, his mother or I whisper the words of the call in his ear and he then gets to say them loudly for the family prayer time. He loves it, and yes, it is often adorable.
- Begin each time of prayer by taking some breaths together as a family (we often do three deep breaths), bringing stillness to your bodies, hearts, and minds.
- **CALL:** Again, children often love call-and-response! If necessary, teach them what their response line is going to be (the words in bold). Then someone should read the call and hear the response of the rest of the table.
- **LESSON:** Read the passage of scripture you selected before, or have one of the children read it (mine fight over this privilege . . .).
- **ABIDING:** This element can be really flexible as far as what is done and how long it takes. Here is a suggested flow:

1. You might begin by actually reading the italicized text in the Abiding section: "Pause

at the start/end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God . . ." Or maybe start this time by singing a song together (e.g., a song from the back of the book or one from your church's worship service).

2. Then invite some reflection on the scripture reading you just heard together by asking simple questions: "What did you hear in that passage?" "What stuck out to you?" "What did Jesus do?" "What do you think it meant when it said ____?" You might get asked a question that you don't know the answer to, and that's perfectly fine! We are all always learning together.
3. From here you could pray one of the provided prayers in the LPP for that day, you could pray using one or more of the prompts, you could pray as the passage you heard leads you, or you could practice intercessory prayer.

- **THE LORD'S PRAYER:** Simply pray this together every day as Jesus taught us.
- **BENEDICTION** (feel free to call it a "blessing" or "God's good word"): When we practice this element, the person giving the benediction raises their hands and puts them outward while the rest around the table open their hands, palms up, in a posture of reception. Then the benediction is spoken and the time of prayer comes to an end.

This is merely a suggested method, and you are encouraged to modify, reduce, or expand it as fits the context of your household. Our prayer is that you can find your communal rhythm of communing with the Creator and experience the beauty and shalom that comes from praying together.

Let us pray,
Joel Littlepage

Seasons of the Christian Year

At the Daily Prayer Project we practice the global and historical tradition of the Christian year (sometimes called the liturgical year or church year) as a communal rhythm that forms us—year after year, season after season—to be the people of God and the bearers of God’s story. Human beings are creatures fundamentally and profoundly shaped by stories. Each of our lives will always be following someone’s calendar and bearing someone’s story, but the question is: whose story is it, and what kind of narrative it is telling? The Christian year is an ancient Christian tradition of ordering the 365-day calendar year around the life of Christ. Some dates and celebrations vary by Eastern and Western Christian traditions, but they are generally as follows: Advent,

Christmastide, Epiphany (also called Ordinary Time in some traditions), Lent, Eastertide, and Ordinary Time.

The Daily Prayer Project crafts each edition of the LPP in accordance with the Christian year, with six editions per annual cycle. Most editions average eight weeks, except the Ordinary Time edition, which spans about sixteen weeks in the fall. Christmas and Epiphany (with Epiphanytide extending through the eve of Ash Wednesday) are combined into a single edition, and we celebrate the season of Pentecost for eight weeks, from the day of Pentecost to the eve of the eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time. Each season has been assigned a liturgical color and seasonal icon.



CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY | DECEMBER 25, 2023–FEBRUARY 13, 2024

The season of Christmas (also known as Christmastide) begins on December 25 and stretches twelve days until the Epiphany of Our Lord on January 6. This span is one of feasting, generosity, and joy that celebrates the unparalleled gift of the incarnate Son of God. Epiphany, a word that means “manifestation,” is a day and season that celebrates the revelation of Jesus to all nations and peoples.

On Epiphany the church remembers the visit of the magi from the East as well as the baptism of Jesus.

2023–2024 Christian Year



ADVENT
Dec 3–Dec 24



CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY
Dec 25–Feb 13



LENT
Feb 14–Mar 30



EASTER
Mar 31–May 18



PENTECOST
May 19



ORDINARY TIME
May 20–Nov 30





PRAYERS

SUNDAY MORNING TO WEDNESDAY EVENING

SAHARA DESERT

Inbal Malca



SUNDAY

Call

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and
redeemed his people.

Luke 1:68

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Glory to God in the highest and
peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone
are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in
the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 47–53.

Lesson

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

왕이 오셨다

왕이 나셨다

가장 작은 몸으로

가장 낮은 곳으로

우리 약함 입고서

나와 함께 하시려

어둔 밤 빛난 별처럼

내 삶에 빛 되신 주

주께서 동행하시니

결코 두렵지 않으리

왕이 오셨다

왕이 나셨다

Oh the King has come!

Oh the King is born!

As a baby boy so small,

to a family, cold and poor,

so that he might know our plight
and we might share his life.

Even in the darkest night

shines the one who is my life,

and because he walks with me,

I will never fear again.

Oh the King has come!

Oh the King is born!

Adapted from the song “왕이 오셨다 [Wang-i-o-shut-dda] /

Oh the King Has Come” by Jaewoo Kim, Lisa Sung, and Greg

Scheer (see pp. 48–49 for the music)

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living

God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the

scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God’s face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For a wonder at the incarnation
of the Lord Jesus
- For those who come into worship
feeling a great curiosity about
the Christian faith
- For those who worship under
the threat of persecution

THE LORD’S PRAYER

See p. 18 for text.

Benediction

Hear the Lord Jesus say: “I am the Alpha
and the Omega, the first and the last, the
beginning and the end. I am the root and
the descendant of David, the bright morning
star.” May the Bright Morning Star shine
upon you today.

Adapted from Revelation 22:13, 16



Call

Those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs.

You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.

Psalm 65:8

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,

Almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 47–53.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

O glorious, holy, almighty God,
you always pity the many
wanderings of humanity,
and for this reason, you guided the magi,
who lived in a land of dark superstition,
to your sacred cradle by the light of a star,
that you might enlighten all
who were walking in their own errors
with the desire of knowing you.
Enlighten us also with burning love for you,
that we who already know you

by your gracious illumination,
may cling to you forever.

A prayer from the ancient Mozarabic church (ca. 400–600 CE), taken from *The New Ancient Collects*. The Mozarabs were Christians who lived in Hispania (modern-day southern Spain).

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city, and world.

Benediction

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.” May you rest in this eternal promise of a dwelling place with God.

Adapted from Revelation 21:3

JAN 28

DEUT. 18:15–20

PS. 111

MARK 1:21–28;

1 COR. 8:1–13

FEB 4

ISA. 40:21–31

PS. 147

MARK 1:29–39;

1 COR. 9:16–23

FEB 11

2 KINGS 2:1–12

PS. 50

MARK 9:2–9;

2 COR. 4:3–6



MONDAY

Call

Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!

Psalm 98:1

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Glory to God in the highest and
peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone
are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in
the glory of God the Father. Amen.

DEC 25

Christmas Day

ISA. 62:6–12

PS. 97

JOHN 1:1–14;

TITUS 3:4–7

JAN 1

ECC. 3:1–13

PS. 8

JAMES 4:11–17

JAN 8

PROV. 1

PS. 19

1 JOHN 1

JAN 15

PROV. 7

PS. 25

3 JOHN

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 47–53.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

O you who have given me eyes to see the
light that fills my room, give me the inward
vision to behold you in this place. O you who
have made me to feel the morning wind upon
my limbs, help me now to feel your presence
as I bow in the worship of you.

A prayer of Chandran Devanesen of India, adapted from *Morning, Noon and Night*. Devanesen was a scholar and principal at Madras Christian College in Chennai.

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For gratitude for God's grace to us in the gift of the Messiah Jesus
- For humility, patience, and hope to imagine new patterns in this new year
- For immigrants and refugees and those who minister to them

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Benediction

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. May you walk forward in this unconquerable light!

Adapted from John 1:1–5



Call

“Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.”

John 6:68

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Glory to God in the highest and
peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone
are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in
the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 47–53.

Lesson

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

Confession: Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sin is put out of sight! Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of guilt, whose lives are lived in complete honesty! When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away, and I groaned all day long. Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, “I will confess my rebellion to the LORD.” And you forgave me! All my

guilt is gone. Therefore, let all the godly pray to you while there is still time.

Psalm 32:1–6a NLT

Assurance: But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Galatians 4:4–7

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God’s face.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city, and world.

Benediction

The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. May his steadfast love be upon us as we hope in him.

Adapted from Psalm 98:2–3

JAN 22

PROV. 13

PS. 31

JOHN 1:19–34

JAN 29

PROV. 19

PS. 37

JOHN 4:1–42

FEB 5

PROV. 24

PS. 42

JOHN 6:22–71

FEB 12

PROV. 30

PS. 48

JOHN 10:1–21



TUESDAY

Call

Give thanks to him; bless his name!
For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever.

Psalms 100:4–5

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Glory to God in the highest and
peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone
are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in
the glory of God the Father. Amen.

DEC 26

ISA. 52:7–10

PS. 98

HEB. 1:1–4

JAN 2

PROV. 22:1–9

PS. 99

LUKE 6:27–31

JAN 9

PROV. 2

PS. 20

1 JOHN 2

JAN 16

PROV. 8

PS. 26

JAMES 1

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 47–53.

Lesson

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, so real, so near, so dear:
To all whom I love,
To all whom I meet,
To all for whom I pray,
Be real, be near, be dear today,
increasingly, forever.

A prayer used by members of the Christa Mahila Sadan women's
center, North India, taken from *Morning, Noon and Night*

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living
God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in
the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.*

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For the glorious light of the Lord to
be manifested in your life today
- For those who are trapped
in financial debt
- For those who are mothers and
fathers in your community

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed
be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy
will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive
us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Benediction

May the LORD your God be in your
midst, a mighty one who will save; may
he rejoice over you with gladness; may
he quiet you by his love; and may he
exult over you with loud singing.

Adapted from Zephaniah 3:17



Call

Let your steadfast love,
O LORD, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

Psalm 33:22

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Glory to God in the highest and
peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone
are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in
the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 47–53.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

My ego is like a fortress. I have built
its walls stone by stone to hold out the
invasion of the love of God. But I have

stayed here long enough. There is light over
the barriers. O my God—the darkness
of my house forgive, and overtake my
soul. I relax the barriers. I abandon all
that I think I am, all that I hope to be,
all that I believe I possess. I let go of
the past, I withdraw my grasping hand
from the future, and in the great silence
of this moment, I alertly rest my soul.

A prayer of Howard Thurman (1899–1981), taken from *All Will Be Well*. Thurman was an African American author, philosopher, theologian, educator, and civil rights leader.

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your
church, neighborhood, city, and world.

Benediction

Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice. Aim
for restoration, comfort one another, agree
with one another, live in peace; and may
the God of love and peace be with you.

Adapted from 2 Corinthians 13:11

JAN 23

PROV. 14

PS. 32

JOHN 1:35–51

JAN 30

PROV. 20

PS. 38

JOHN 4:43–54

FEB 6

PROV. 25

PS. 43

JOHN 7:1–13

FEB 13

PROV. 31

PS. 49

JOHN 10:22–42



WEDNESDAY

Call

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I will say, rejoice.

Philippians 4:4

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Glory to God in the highest and
peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,

DEC 27 we worship you, we give you thanks,
ISA. 59 we praise you for your glory.

PS. 63 For you alone are the Holy One, you alone
COL. 1:9–20 are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
JAN 3 Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in
JOSH. 2:2–9 the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PS. 2
EPH. 6:10–20

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 47–53.

JAN 10

PROV. 3

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

PS. 21
1 JOHN 3

Prayer

JAN 17 **Confession:** Uncover the things I hide.

PROV. 9 I turn toward you, God; I want to be
PS. 27 close to you. Search me, and know my

JAMES 2 heart and life. Examine my actions,
words, and thoughts. See where I have
not lived in your light. Bring me into
your presence. I surrender my way, my
patterns to you. I need your healing touch.
Uncover the things I hide.

A prayer of Kari Kristina Reeves, adapted from

Canyon Road: A Book of Prayer

Assurance: And the Word became flesh
and dwelt among us, and we have seen
his glory, glory as of the only Son from
the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living
God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in
the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.*

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For sanctification and growth in holiness
- For the opportunity and willingness to joyfully serve another person today
- For those who serve as missionaries from the East, West, North, or South

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed
be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy
will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive
us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Benediction

May the God of peace be
with you all. Amen.

Romans 15:33



Call

Come to me, all who labor
and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Glory to God in the highest and
peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone
are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in
the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 47–53.

Lesson

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

We give you thanks, O God, for your gift
to the world, a gift whose richness created
beings are not capable of describing. . . . For
this reason I will praise you and confess
your name. You have given your entire
treasure to the world: for if you gave the
only-begotten from your bosom and from
the throne of your being for the benefit
of all, what further do you have which
you have not given to your creation? The
world has become mingled with God,
and creation and Creator have become

one! Praise to you for your inscrutable
purpose: truly this mystery is vast.

A prayer of Isaac the Syrian (ca. 613–700), taken
from *The Prayers of Saint Isaac the Syrian*

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living
God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in
the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.*

PRAYER OF MINDFULNESS

*Throughout the history of the church, Christians have incor-
porated practices of prayer that call to mind God's presence in
the moment, humbly and gratefully review the time that has
passed, and look forward to the gift of another day. Pray through
these prompts slowly, giving time to each step of the practice.*

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the day with gratitude.
3. Pay attention to your emotions.
4. Choose one feature of the
day and pray from it.
5. Look toward tomorrow.

Benediction

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine
upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance
upon you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

JAN 24

PROV. 15

PS. 33

JOHN 2:1–12

JAN 31

PROV. 21

PS. 39

JOHN 5:1–15

FEB 7

PROV. 26

PS. 44

JOHN 7:14–52





PRACTICES



MEDITATION

We all have rules like “Do your best,” “Never give up,” “Never say never,” “Just do it.” These mottos tether us to certain behaviors and attitudes so that we can, in the words of another rule, “be all we can be.” They help us live toward what we most want. Developing a rule of life is a way of being intentional about the personal rhythms and guidelines that shape our days.

One of the early Christian rules for life is found in Acts 2:42. Here we find that believers “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” This rule shaped their lives and hearts in the circumstances they were in. It acknowledged the impossibility of becoming like Christ through effort alone. The rule offered disciplines that made space to attend to the supernatural presence of the Trinity at work in and among them. The rule of the early church described distinct practices that were different from the cultural norms. Over the years Christians have developed rules and rhythms for living that center their lives on loving Christ rather than the world. The Rule of Saint Benedict is an example of an ancient rule still in practice today.

A rule of life is a simple statement of the regular rhythms we choose in order to present our bodies to God as our “spiritual worship” (Rom. 12:1). Each rule is a way in which we partner with God for the transformation only he can bring. Rules keep our lives from devolving into unintended chaos. They aren’t a burdensome list of do’s and don’ts. Life-giving rules are a brief and realistic scaffold of disciplines that support our heart’s desire to grow in loving God and others.

A rule honors your limits and God-given longings. It mitigates against grandiosity and must be written for who you are, not for who you aren’t. It addresses your world, your sphere of influence, your fears, your relationships. It takes into account where you need to stretch and change as well as where you are tired and need balance.

Don’t be afraid to experiment with a rule; it can easily be changed and revised but should not be subject to whims. Allow yourself to settle into the rule so that it has time to shape your life. Ultimately a rule will help you love God more. If it becomes a legalistic way of earning points with God, it should be scrapped.

Before making a rule, take stock of your desires, natural rhythms, limits, and times of closest connection to God. The following questions can provide you with insights about what is most important to you in a rule. (If the word “rule” makes you anxious, write a “rhythm” of life instead.)

1. When and where do you feel closest to God? How do you enter most deeply into an awareness of his love for you? Pay attention to the experiences, practices, and relationships that draw you toward God. Are there particular practices that open you to God?
2. What practices suit your daily, monthly, and yearly rhythms and cycles? What limitations are built into your life at this moment? What longings remain steady throughout? What responsibilities and rhythms change with various seasons?
3. Where do you want to change? Where do you feel powerless to change? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you do through grace what you cannot do through effort alone.
4. Consider this sample rule of life from Psalm 16 as you begin:

“I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”

- *Set my heart on God.*

“As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.”

- *Journey with friends.*
- *Delight in the body of Christ.*

“The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply . . .”

- *Confess my sins.*

“The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.”

- *Practice gratitude.*

“I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.”

- *Worship and praise.*
- *Listen, pay attention, be teachable.*

“I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.”

- *Persevere and hope.*
- *Speak courageously.*

“Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices; my flesh also dwells secure.”

- *Take myself less seriously.*
- *Receive my body as it ages.*

“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

- *Practice the presence of God.*

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CATEGORY: FEASTING, CELEBRATION

THE SANITY OF JOY

Gregory Thompson

MEDITATION

“When they saw the star they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.”

—Matthew 2:10

If the season of Advent is best symbolized by the young Mary quietly and contemplatively nursing the life hidden in the darkness within her, the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany are best symbolized by the magi, starlit and crazed with joy. Crazed? Yes, crazed. Matthew, in a strange and wonderfully abundant expression, tells us that they “rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.” What he means is that they laughed until they cried and hugged one another like crazy men.

From a certain perspective, their joy was crazy. After all, even as they held their stomachs in laughter and wiped the tears from their eyes, both they and the young family before them were being hunted by an army commanded by a murderous king. In the days to come, children throughout the region would be murdered in the search for the child. And in years to come, the heart of this young mother would be pierced as she watched her son suffocate to death before her eyes, borne down by the scorn of the world.

And yet they laughed. And not only this, but the writers of the Bible wanted us to know that they laughed. Why? Because as they stood in the dark outside that hidden dwelling, their bald heads illumined by that incandescent light, they knew what we long to know: that one day the journey will be over, the darkness will dissipate, the light will come, and we—and the world with us—will be made whole. They laughed because they knew, as the Catholic writer Erasmo Leiva-Merikakis puts it, that “every act of waiting on God ends in a burst of splendor.” Heard in this light, their crazed laughter is transformed into the very music of sanity.

And so it is with us. For months we have traveled through the wilderness of Ordinary Time and waited in the stillness of Advent. Silent and yearning, we have followed the rumors of light through the darkness in hopes that one day we would come fully into that light and that it would come fully into us. And the message of Christmas and Epiphany is that in Jesus Christ the Light has come and that there is no darkness that can ever dim its radiance.

Because of this, our work in these seasons—if indeed it can be called work—is the work of the magi: to stand in the midst of an age haunted by the reality of darkness, and yet to give ourselves over to the strange wonder of joy. To fill our houses with light, with song, with people, with gifts, with food, and yes, with laughter.



While the shape of this work will—as it should—vary from household to household, in our house it looks something like this: Around midmorning on Christmas, my daughter and I make our way to the kitchen to begin to prepare for the friends and neighbors who will arrive



Rasa Kasparavičienė

that evening. The fare varies from year to year, but always there is the holy glory of Apple Cranberry Casserole. Apples and berries, washed and sliced, sit gleaming in a baking dish, blooming under a sprinkle of granulated sugar. Creamy butter, cubed, melts slowly in a copper saucepan. Oats, flour, brown sugar, salt, and pecans, all combined, sit gorgeously in a bowl awaiting the melted butter. Rosemary, green and fragrant, springs upward from a small jar. When the butter is ready and the bowl is mixed, we sprinkle it over the top of the fruit. Then, snuggling the rosemary sprigs into the midst of it all, we lean in and inhale the wonder. It is the last to be

prepared and will be the first to be consumed.

When it's time, we open the oven door, shielding our faces from the heat, and slide in the dish. Within minutes, the house takes on the scent, transformed into the architecture of delight. As our friends arrive out of the dark and slip off their coats, they gather around the table and cheer as the beauty of the meal is laid before them. They eat. They talk. They sing. And, like the magi, they laugh in an overflow of joy. This work of joy—of rejoicing exceedingly with great joy—is the work of this season. And I urge each of you to take it up. For as we do this, as crazy as it seems, we bear witness to reality in its fullness.

Ingredients:

- 3 cups sliced tart apples (about 4 apples)
- 2 cups raw cranberries
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup raw oats
- ⅓ cup all-purpose flour
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1½ teaspoons coarse salt
- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 8 tablespoons butter, melted
- 4 sprigs fresh rosemary

Directions:

1. Place apples and cranberries in a 2-quart baking dish. Sprinkle with granulated sugar.
2. In a bowl, combine oats, flour, brown sugar, salt, pecans, and melted butter. Sprinkle on top of fruit.
3. Bake at 350°F for 50 minutes.

Gregory Thompson (PhD, University of Virginia) is a pastor, scholar, artist, and producer whose work focuses on race and equity in the United States. He is the cocreator of *Union: The Musical*, a soul- and hip-hop-based musical about the 1968 Sanitation Workers' Strike, and the coauthor, with Duke L. Kwon, of *Reparations: A Christian Call for Repentance and Repair* (Brazos, 2021).



GALLERY



What Color Is Divine Light?

Anne Lindberg, 2023

Cotton thread, staples, 5 × 55 × 14 ft.

Solo exhibition at the Textile Museum,

George Washington University, Washington, DC

Photo: Derek Porter



ŚWIATŁOŚĆ PRAWDZIWA

(True Light)

“The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.”
—John 1:9

From the mouth of an ancient Bethlehem cave comes a blaze of glory, where a young Jewish mother breastfeeds her newborn son. This is Mary and Jesus, the saving light of whom the prophets had spoken, sharing an intimate moment before the visitors arrive, or perhaps after they’ve gone. Joseph looks on from the fringes, along with a donkey and cow, pondering the holy mystery of God become flesh.

Into our long, deep night, the Messiah has come, heaven-sent. A shaft of starlight pierces the darkness, pointing to God’s self-revelation in the tiny, swaddled babe, the composition’s focal point. Polish artist Paulina Krajewska (b. 1976) is known for paring down biblical scenes to their most essential elements, creating a spaciousness that invites contemplation.

Christmastime is often full of hustle and bustle—shopping, decorating, wrapping, cooking, traveling, cleaning, entertaining. But Krajewska gives us, in this icon, an invitation to be still before the sacred wonder that we celebrate in this season: the birth of Christ, who is Emmanuel, “God with us.”

What thoughts, feelings, prayers, or impressions are stirred in you by this image? Name them in the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Światłość prawdziwa (True Light)

Paulina Krajewska, 2014

Tempera on board, 35 × 25 cm

BORN FOR YOU

Julie Dowling (b. 1969) is a Badimaya artist from Western Australia. In this painting she combines Aboriginal symbols from ancient rock art and sand paintings with European-influenced portraiture and Christian iconography.

Winner of the 2000 Mandorla Art Award, *Born for You* shows Joseph and Mary gesturing toward the infant Christ, whose hand is raised in blessing. His gold-painted halo bears crosses, alluding to his death—a vignette of which appears near his left forearm, where he is seen hanging between two thieves on a hillside. Around the halo's rim are open hands, signifying God reaching out to all peoples, and flaming red rays, which evoke the spread of Christ's Spirit at Pentecost. He is encased in a thick outline of concentric circles, which in Aboriginal art represent water holes, campsites, fireplaces, or other gathering places, here suggesting how Jesus creates community around him.

Dowling modeled all three figures after members of her own family. Atop Mary's shadowed torso she transcribed John 1:1–16, a passage on the incarnation, and on Joseph's sleeve she wrote excerpts from Matthew 2, describing the angel's warning to Joseph to flee with his family to Egypt, and Sirach and Job.

The pearlescent filigree in the background consists of people, snakes, bush fruit, human footprints, emu tracks (which look like arrows), and other designs drawn from Badimaya art. Both land and sky are filled in with dots, a common stylistic feature of Aboriginal painting since the 1970s.

Raised in the Roman Catholic Church, Dowling has complicated feelings about Christianity. She admires Jesus's commitment to freedom, justice, and peace, but she despises the violence perpetrated by the institution that represents him, especially the stealing of Aboriginal children from their families to be assimilated into Wudjulah (white) culture, and more broadly the use of religion as a tool for colonization. Part of the Stolen Generations, her grandmother Mollie was placed in a mission orphanage in Perth at age twelve by Mollie's white father; Mollie genuinely embraced the Catholic faith, but under the church's influence, she also lost a lot of the language, lore, and traditions of her mother's side.

With *Born for You*, Dowling shows that Jesus does not belong exclusively to the white man and that, rather than wishing to annihilate world cultures, he welcomes them in all their beautiful diversity. He bids everyone come to him, who wears our flesh, and be blessed, to live in the light of his far-reaching gospel.



Born for You

Julie Dowling, 2000

Acrylic and red ochre on canvas, 96 × 120 cm

New Norcia Museum and Art Gallery, Western Australia

Photo courtesy of Bible Society Australia

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Los Reyes Magos (The Three Kings)

Caban group, ca. 1875–1900

Carved and painted wood with metal and string

8 1/8 × 11 7/8 × 6 in. (20.7 × 30.3 × 15.3 cm)

Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC

LOS REYES MAGOS

(The Three Kings)

January 6 is Epiphany, celebrating the visit of the magi to the Christ child and thus God's physical manifestation to the Gentiles. In Puerto Rico and other Spanish-speaking communities, the holiday is known as Three Kings Day.

Though the Bible never specifies that the magi were royal, they have often been identified as such since the early Christian era, in part because Isaiah 60 is read as a messianic prophecy: "nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising, . . . bring[ing] gold and frankincense" (vv. 3, 6). Regardless of whether these pilgrims were literal kings, it stands that they were men of wealth and power from outside Israel—and so tradition gives them crowns. Their number is also not given in scripture, but Matthew's mention of three gifts has led interpreters to count them at three.

The three kings are among the most popular subjects of Puerto Rican *santos* (handmade religious images), a long-standing Hispanic folk art tradition that includes wood carving and panel painting. Since camels were unknown to earlier *santeros* (makers of religious images) on the island, the kings are typically shown riding Paso Fino horses. Melchior is shown with dark skin and is often given special prominence, especially by *santeros* of African descent.

This sculpture is by the Caban group, a family of *santeros* active for generations in the town of Camuy. Instead of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, the kings appear to be carrying musical instruments. (They're coming to join the party!) The objects dangling from the wrist of the king on the right are *milagros*, small metal tokens shaped like body parts that are in need of healing or that have been healed, placed there by a Christian as a form of petition or gratitude to God.





PRAYERS

THURSDAY MORNING TO SATURDAY EVENING

SLOVENIA
Klemen Tusar



THURSDAY

Call

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD
has risen upon you.

Isaiah 60:1

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Glory to God in the highest and
peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,

Almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone
are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in
the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 47–53.

Lesson

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

Lord!

Cleanse my heart and make it

as white as snow.

Make my faith

as firm as mountains.

Make my personality
as beautiful as flowers.

When I fight for the truth,
make me as brave as the lion.

When I suffer for justice,
make me as meek as a lamb.

When I serve the suffering,
make me as patient as the buffalo.

O God! Restore my humanity.

A prayer of the Rev. C. M. Kao (1929–2019) of Taiwan, taken from *With All God's People*. Kao was a pastor and general secretary of the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan (PCT) and a human rights advocate who spent more than four years imprisoned because of his resistance to the authoritarian regime during the martial-law period of Taiwan.

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For the ability to see our own deficiencies and know the sufficiency of Jesus
- For the faithful witness of the church in your city and country
- For the poor and oppressed in your city

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed
be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy
will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive
us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Benediction

Hear the Lord say, "I am the light
of the world. Whoever follows
me will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life." May
you go from this place following
after the Light of the World.

Adapted from John 8:12



Call

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

Psalm 80:3

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Glory to God in the highest and
peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone
are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in
the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 47–53.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

You, eternal God, saw me and knew me in
yourself. And because you saw me in your
light, you fell in love with your creature
and drew her out of yourself and created
her in your image and likeness. But this
did not make it possible for me, your
creature, to know you in myself except as
I saw in myself your image and likeness.
The lowliness of my understanding could
neither behold nor comprehend your
exaltedness. Therefore, so that I might
see and know you in myself and thus
have perfect knowledge of you, you made
yourself one with us by descending from

your Godhead's great exaltedness to the
very lowliness of our humanity's clay. So
that I, then, with my littleness, would
be able to see your greatness, you made
yourself a little one, wrapping up the
greatness of your Godhead in the littleness
of our humanity. Thus were you revealed
to us in the Word, your only-begotten
Son. Thus have I come to know you, deep
well of love, within myself, in this Word.

A prayer of Catherine of Siena, Italy (1347–1380), adapted
from *Catherine of Siena: Passion for the Truth, Compassion for
Humanity*

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the
scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.*

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church,
neighborhood, city, and world.

Benediction

May the LORD answer you in the day of
trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob
protect you!

Psalm 20:1

JAN 25

PROV. 16

PS. 34

JOHN 2:13–25

FEB 1

PROV. 22

PS. 40

JOHN 5:16–47

FEB 8

PROV. 27

PS. 45

JOHN 7:53–8:11



FRIDAY

Call

And he came and preached peace
to you who were far off
and peace to those who were near.
**For through him we both have access in
one Spirit to the Father.**

Ephesians 2:17–18

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Glory to God in the highest and
peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone
are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in
the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 47–53.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

We pray for confidence
to share your Word with others
and for the opportunity to proclaim it.

**Forgive our reluctance,
encourage us in our timidity.**

We pray for wisdom
to know what should be said
and the moment in which to say it.

**Forgive our reticence,
soothe our anxieties.**

We pray for knowledge

of the fullness of your grace
and the willingness to live it.

**Forgive our ignorance,
dispel our self-reliance.**

Be the center of all we are,
the Light by which we walk,
the blessing we bring to others;
through Jesus Christ alone we ask.

Amen.

A prayer for the Epiphany season, source unknown

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living
God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in
the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.*

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For a heart that savors and shares
the gospel of Christ
- For freedom from the love of money
and for generosity in all of life
- For those who have been
victims of a crime

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed
be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy
will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive
us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Benediction

May the LORD keep your going
out and your coming in from this
time forth and forevermore.

Psalm 121:8



Call

Yet God my King is from of old, working
salvation in the midst of the earth.

Yours is the day, yours also the night.

Psalm 74:12, 16a

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Glory to God in the highest and
peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,

Almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone
are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in
the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 47–53.

Lesson

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

O Lord, we ask you to deliver us
from fear of the unknown future,
from fear of failure,
from fear of poverty,
from fear of sickness and pain,
from fear of age,
and from fear of death.
Help us, O Father,
by your grace to love and fear you only.

Fill our hearts with cheerful courage
and loving trust in you;
through our Lord and Master Jesus Christ.

A prayer of Dr. Akanu Ibiam (1906–1995), a Nigerian
medical missionary and governor, taken from *The
Westminster Collection of Christian Prayers*

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living

*God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in
the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.*

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church,
neighborhood, city, and world.

Benediction

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself,
and God our Father, who loved us and gave
us eternal comfort and good hope through
grace, comfort your hearts and establish
them in every good work and word.

2 Thessalonians 2:16–17

JAN 26

PROV. 17

PS. 35

JOHN 3:1–21

FEB 2

Presentation of the Lord

MAL. 3:1–4

PS. 84

LUKE 2:22–40;

HEB. 2:14–18

FEB 9

PROV. 28

PS. 46

JOHN 8:12–59



SATURDAY

Call

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1:5

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Glory to God in the highest and
peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone
are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in
the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 47–53.

Lesson

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

JAN 13

PROV. 6

PS. 24

2 JOHN

JAN 20

PROV. 12

PS. 30

JAMES 5

CREED

This is the true faith that we believe
and confess: That our Lord Jesus Christ,
God's Son, is both God and man. He
is God, begotten before all worlds from
the being of the Father, and he is man,
born in the world from the being of
his mother—existing fully as God, and
fully as man with a rational soul and
a human body; equal to the Father in
divinity, subordinate to the Father in
humanity. Although he is God and man,
he is not divided, but is one Christ.

A portion of the Athanasian Creed (ca. 6th century)

Prayer

Shine on me, shine on me.

Let the light from the lighthouse
shine on me.

Shine on me, shine on me.

Let the light from the lighthouse
shine on me.

From the African American spiritual "Shine on Me"

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living
God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the
scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.*

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For a childlike rejoicing over the gracious gift of the Son of God, Christ Jesus
- For those who celebrate pregnancy or the birth or adoption of a child
- For the flourishing of all people in your place, from the womb to the tomb

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed
be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy
will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive
us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Benediction

May the steadfast love of the Lord be upon
us, even as we hope in him.

Adapted from Psalm 33:22



Call

Let my prayer be counted
as incense before you,
and the lifting up of my hands
as the evening sacrifice!

Psalm 141:2

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

Glory to God in the highest and
peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone
are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in
the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 47–53.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

Confession: Lamb of God, you take away
the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, grant us peace.

The Agnus Dei

Assurance: Christ, our Passover lamb, has
been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate
the festival, not with the old leaven, the

leaven of malice and evil, but with the
unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Corinthians 5:7–8

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living
God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in
the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.*

PRAYER OF MINDFULNESS

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review this past week with gratitude.
3. Pay attention to your emotions.
4. Choose one feature of the
week and pray from it.
5. Look toward tomorrow and the
beginning of a new week.

A PRAYER FOR SABBATH

Creator God,
on the seventh day you rested
and were refreshed.

Please help me now to enter into
the rest of your Sabbath,
that I may cease from my work
and delight in your care over my life
both now and forever,
Amen.

Benediction

Lord, you now have set your servants free
to go in peace as you have promised, for
these eyes of ours 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 forever. Amen.

The Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon), based on Luke 2:29–32

JAN 27

PROV. 18

PS. 36

JOHN 3:22–36

FEB 3

PROV. 23

PS. 41

JOHN 6:1–21

FEB 10

PROV. 29

PS. 47

JOHN 9:1–41

TORONTO
Patrick Tomasso



SONGBOOK



OH THE KING HAS COME



D **GM7**

Korean: 왕 이 오 셧 다 _____ 왕 이 나 셧 다 _____ 왕 이
 Transliteration: Wang - i - o - shut - dda, _____ wang - i - na - shut - dda. _____ Wang - i -
 English: *Oh the King has come,* _____ *Oh the King is born.* _____ *Oh the*

D **GM7**

오 셧 다 _____ 왕 이 나 셧 다 _____ 가 장
 o - shut - dda, _____ wang - i - na - shut - dda. _____ Ga - jang
King has come, _____ *Oh the King is born.* _____ *As a*

G **F#m** **G** **Asus4**

작 은 몸 으 로 가 장 낮 은 곳 으 로 우 리
 Ja - Guen Mo - mu - ro, Ga - jang Na - zeun Go - S - ro, Wo - ri
ba - by boy so small, to a fam - ily, cold and poor, so that

Em **F#m** **G** **Asus4** **A**

약 함 입 고 서 나 와 함 께 하 시 려 _____ 어 둔
 Ya - kam Ip - Ggo - seo, Na - wa Ham - gge Ha - si - ryeo. _____ Eo - doon.
he might know our plight, and we might share his life. _____ E - ven



밤 빛 난 별 처 럼 내 삶 에 빛 되 신 주 주 께
 bam Bi-Nnan Byul-cheo-reom, Nae-sal-me Bit-dae-shin-ju, Ju-gge-
in the dark - est night, shines the one who is my life, and be -



서 동 행 하 시 니 결 코 두 렵 지 않 으 리
 seo Dong-hang Ha-shi-ni, Gyeol-ko Du-ryeop-jji A-neu-ri.
cause He walks with me,— I will ne - ver fear a - gain.

Words and music by Jaewoo Kim, Lisa Sung, and Greg Scheer. Arranged by Proskunee Ministries, Inc., PO Box 1237, Clarkston, GA 30021.

Website: www.proskunee.info. Email: info@proskunee.info.

IL EST NÉ, LE DIVIN ENFANT

(He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child)

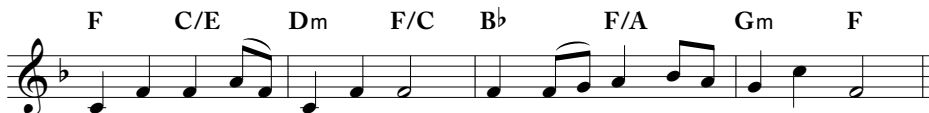


Verse



French: Il est né le di-vin en-fant, Jou-ez haut-bois, ré-son-nez mu-set - tes!

English: *He is born, the di-vine Christ child, play the— o - boe and bag-pipes mer-ri - ly!*



Il est né le di-vin en-fant, Chan-tons tous son a - vè - ne - ment!

He is born, the— ho - ly child, sing we— all of the Sa - vior mild.

Chorus



1. De - puis plus de qua-tre mille ans, nous le pro-met-taient les pro-phè-tes,
Through long a - ges— of the past pro - phets have fore - told his co-ming;

2. Ah! Qu'il est beau, qu'il est char-mant! Ah! que ses grâc - es sont par - fai - tes!
Oh, how love - ly, — oh, how pure is this per - fect— child of hea - ven;

3. O Jé - sus! O Roi tout-puis - sant, tout pe - tit en - fant que vous ê - tes,
Je - sus, Lord of— all the world, co - ming as a — child a - mong us;



de - puis plus de qua-tre mille ans, nous at - ten-dions cet heu - reux temps.
through long a - ges of the past, now the time has — come at last!

Ah! Qu'il est beau, qu'il est char-mant! Qu'il est doux ce di-vin en - fant!
oh, how love - ly, — oh, how pure gra - cious gift of — God sent down.

O Jé - sus! O Roi tout-puis - sant, rég - nez sur nous en - tiè - re - ment!
Je - sus, Lord of— all the world, grant to us your — heaven - ly peace.

DE TIERRA LEJANA VENIMOS



(From a Distant Home We Come)

Verse



1. De tie - rra le - ja - na ve - ni - mos a ver - te,
2. Al re - cién na - ci - do que_es Rey de los re - yes,
3. Co - mo_es Dios el Ni - ño le re - ga - lo_in - cien - so,
4. Al Ni - ño del cie - lo que ba - jo_a la tie - rra,



- nos sirv - e de gui - a la_es - tre - lla de_O - rien - te.
 o - ro le re - ga - lo pa - ra_or - nar sus sie - nes.
 per - fu - me con al - ma que su - be_has - ta_el cie - lo.
 le re - ga - lo mir - ra que_in - spi - ra tris - te - za.

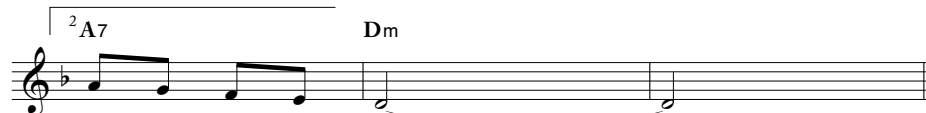
Chorus



- Oh bril - lan - te_es - tre - lla que_a - nun - cias la au - ro - ra -
 Glo - ria_en las al - tu - ras al Hi - jo de Dios, Glo -



- no nos fal - te nun - ca tu luz bien - he - cho - ra. _____
 ria_en las al - tu - ras y



- en la tie - rra_a - more. _____

1. From a distant home we come to see you;
 the star of the East serves as our guide.

2. To the newborn who is King of kings,
 I give gold to adorn his head.

Chorus:

O bright star that announces the dawn,
 let us never lack your generous light.
 Glory in the highest to the Son of God,
 glory in the highest and love upon the earth.

3. Because this child is God, I give him incense,
 spiritual perfume that rises to the sky.

4. To the child from heaven who came down to earth,
 I give myrrh, which is a symbol of the sadness he will face.

Traditional Puerto Rican carol. Public domain. English translation (for understanding) by the Daily Prayer Project.

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN



1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten,
2. O that birth for - e - ver bles - sed,
3. Let the heights of heaven a - dore — him;
4. Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther,



ere the worlds be - gan — to be,
 when a vir - gin, blest — with grace,
 an - gel hosts his prai - ses sing:
 and, O Ho - ly Ghost, — to thee,



he is Al - pha and O - me - ga
 by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 powers, do - mi - nions, bow be - fore — him,
 hymn and chant and high thanks - gi - ving



he the source, the en - ding he,
 bore the Sa - vior of — our race;
 and ex - tol our God — and King;
 and un - wea - ried prai - ses be:



of the things that are, that have——been, and that fu - ture
 and the babe, the world's Re-dee - mer, first re - vealed his
 let no tongue on earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in
 ho - nor, glo - ry, and do-mi - nion, and e - ter - nal



years shall see	e - ver-more and	e - ver-more!
sa - cred face,	e - ver-more and	e - ver-more!
con - cert ring,	e - ver-more and	e - ver-more!
vic - to - ry,	e - ver-more and	e - ver-more!

Words by Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348–410) of Spain. Translated from the Latin by J. M. Neale and H. W. Baker.

The music is the tune DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, a chant melody first published in 1582. Public domain.



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The Daily Prayer Project's Living Prayer Periodicals feature daily morning and evening prayer guides for the week. These guides are used throughout the current season of the Christian year. Their simplicity, brevity, and repetition facilitate transformative patterns of prayer in everyday life.