

## Advent Bible Reading

*During Advent, we look back to Christ's first coming and look ahead for His second coming. You'll see references to our need for a Savior and both of these comings in the passages below. Along with reading the passages, we'd encourage you to pray them—see the other side for help with praying Scripture.*

### Week 1 *≈ Week of Nov. 28*

- Jeremiah 33:14-16
- Psalm 25:1-10
- 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
- Luke 21:25-36

### Week 2 *≈ Week of Dec. 5*

- Malachi 3:1-4
- Luke 1:68-79
- Philippians 1:3-11
- Luke 3:1-6, Isaiah 40:1-5

### Week 3 *≈ Week of Dec. 12*

- Zephaniah 3:14-20
- Isaiah 12:2-6
- Luke 3:7-18
- Revelation 1:4-8

### Week 4 *≈ Week of Dec. 19*

- Micah 5:2-5a
- Luke 1:46b-55
- Psalm 80:1-7
- Luke 1:39-55

## Christmas Day

- Luke 2

*Readings are based on the 2021 Advent readings from the Revised Common Lectionary.*

## How to Pray Scripture

After you've read the day's passage, we encourage you to pray it back to God, and then to take an arrow prayer from it with you into your day. Here is some help to get you started:

- If the passage is short enough, read it out loud, perhaps more than once. Hearing it helps focus your attention on the indwelling presence of Jesus and his Spirit who is with you. Remember that Advent focuses on God's coming, so look for the themes of needed salvation and promises of Christ's first and second comings.
- Pray the passage or a portion of it, sticking closely to the words in Scripture. For example, if you are praying Jeremiah 33:15, you would read aloud, "In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land." To turn it into a prayer, you might pray: "Jesus, you are the righteous Branch God promised. All you do is just and right."
- Because prayer is a two-way interaction, be sure to pause and listen for what the Holy Spirit would want to communicate to you.
- As you finish, find a short prayer—the kind the early church called an "arrow prayer"—to pray throughout the day. For this passage, it might be, "Jesus, in these days and at this time, do what is just and right."

The goal in praying Scripture is to keep the focus on your direct interaction with the Lord, so that you encounter the Living Word through the written word.

