

Daily Advent Prayer Week 3

<p>The Third Week of Advent— Sunday</p> <p>I lift my heart up to you, Lord, to thank you for the blessings you shower on me each day. You are the 'joy of my soul.' I know that in your great love, I am held and protected by you. I pray and listen to the good news you send; I ask and feel the healing. I am freed by you from the things in this world that let me hide from you. I rejoice, I rejoice, down to my soul. Help me to prepare my heart to be open and able to receive your immense love.</p>	<p>The Third Week of Advent— Monday</p> <p>Oh, God of wisdom, I want to praise you and give you my life. Like a loving parent, you bless me. You have watched over me, knowing my history and the path that led me to you. Thank you for the peace you promise peace in my life. I ask that I be always aware of the strength of your great power. May it never leave me. So many people before me in so many generations, have served you so humbly, answering your call. Please give me the wisdom and courage to be your humble servant. <i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!</i></p>	<p>The Third Week of Advent—Tuesday</p> <p>Oh, Adonai, dearest Lord, Compassionate God of justice, so many areas of my life seem imprisoned but you promise me real freedom and peace in my life. Renew my spirit and free my soul. Please, open my heart which you have bathed in the longing of Advent. I am awe-struck as your glory fills the earth and I want to follow you in caring for other. Grant me the grace to see how you shine your light on the poor who have such a special place in your heart. <i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!</i></p>
<p>The Third Week of Advent—Wednesday</p> <p>Oh, Jesus who descended from Jesse, you are a sign of God's love. I feel hopeful and expectant, filled with a rebirth of joy and love. I depend you so much. You are a rock for my belief and a sign of God's love. Fill me with your praise! I want to sing your glory, filled with joy for the message of hope you send. I don't always understand when you are acting on my behalf. Thank you for the message of hope you send me. Give me true faith and love as I celebrate the mystery of how you came to be with us. <i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!</i></p>	<p>The Third Week of Advent—Thursday</p> <p>Oh, Jesus, you hold the key that will unlock my constricted heart. It gives me great hope that Mary said yes to you and your plan. She was filled with the Spirit and put aside her own doubts. I know you are ready to answer my prayers, ease my doubts and calm my fears. Sometimes I don't hear your messengers because they aren't what I expect. They aren't wearing wings or halos but are the people standing in front of me. How many times have I not listened? How often have I balked at your messages and your messengers? Fill me with the light of your Spirit and enter, in all your glory into my life. Let me rejoice! <i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!</i></p>	<p>The Third Week of Advent— Friday</p> <p>Loving God, It is growing in my heart: An awareness and gratitude of your constant love for me; Like the sun rising in the East to warm and comfort my life and to bring new growth. Thank you for these weeks of prayer. In the spirit of the season my waiting, my patience, feels sacred. Bless my heart with generosity and make me ready to receive you. Come, Lord Jesus! Come! <i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!</i></p>

The Third Week of Advent— Saturday

Oh, King of us all. I find myself standing before your strength and splendor watching, waiting and filled with total joy. You have lifted my mind in hope. Now help me to open my life to the coming of the Spirit. I want to be like Mary, your mother. Her wonderful courage and strength inspire me to do the same. She simply said Yes and the impossible was done. Thank you for this Advent journey. The anticipation has filled my life and made me long for a closer relationship with you. My life gets so busy that I forget to focus. Thank you for guidance. Thank you for the quiet moments when I have felt your love. Nothing will be impossible with God. *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

Daily Advent Prayer Week 4

<p>The Fourth Week of Advent— Sunday</p> <p>Oh, <i>Adonai</i>, dearest Lord, Compassionate God of justice, so many areas of my life seem imprisoned but you promise me real freedom and peace in my life. Renew my spirit and free my soul. Please, open my heart which you have bathed in the longing of Advent. I am awe-struck as your glory fills the earth and I want to follow you in caring for others. Grant me the grace to see how you shine your light on the poor who have such a special place in your heart. <i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!</i></p>	<p>The Fourth Week of Advent— Monday</p> <p>Oh, Jesus who descended from Jesse, you are a sign of God's love. I feel hopeful and expectant, filled with a rebirth of joy and love. I depend you so much. You are a rock for my belief and a sign of God's love. Fill me with your praise! I want to sing your glory, filled with joy for the message of hope you send. I don't always understand when you are acting on my behalf. Thank you for the message of hope you send me. Give me true faith and love as I celebrate the mystery of how you came to be with us. <i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!</i></p>	<p>The Fourth Week of Advent—Tuesday</p> <p>Oh, Jesus, you hold the key that will unlock my constricted heart. It gives me great hope that Mary said yes to you and your plan. She was filled with the Spirit and put aside her own doubts. I know you are ready to answer my prayers, ease my doubts and calm my fears. Sometimes I don't hear your messengers because they aren't what I expect. They aren't wearing wings or halos but are the people standing in front of me. How many times have I not listened? How often have I balked at your messages and your messengers? Fill me with the light of your Spirit and enter, in all your glory into my life. Let me rejoice! <i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!</i></p>
<p>The Fourth Week of Advent— Wednesday</p> <p>Loving God, It is growing in my heart: An awareness and gratitude of your constant love for me; Like the sun rising in the East to warm and comfort my life and to bring new growth. Thank you for these weeks of prayer. In the spirit of the season my waiting, my patience, feels sacred. Bless my heart with generosity and make me ready to receive you. Come, Lord Jesus! Come! <i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!</i></p>	<p>The Fourth Week of Advent— Thursday</p> <p>Oh, king of us all. I find myself standing before your strength and splendor watching, waiting and filled with total joy. You have lifted my mind in hope. Now help me to open my life to the coming of the Spirit. I want to be like Mary, your mother. Her wonderful courage and strength inspire me to do the same. She simply said Yes and the impossible was done. Thank you for this Advent journey. The anticipation has filled my life and made me long for a closer relationship with you. My life gets so busy that I forget to focus. Thank you for guidance. Thank you for the quiet moments when I have felt your love. Nothing will be impossible with God. <i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Em- manuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!</i></p>	<p>The Fourth Week of Advent— Friday</p> <p>Oh, Emmanuel, "God-with-Us," You have touched me; you are God-with-Me. Thank you for these weeks of prayer. In the spirit of the season my waiting, my patience, feels sacred. Refine and purify my heart with the hottest flame of your love. Give me the courage of your prophets and let me do what is right even when others don't understand. Bless my heart with generosity and make me ready to receive you. Come, Lord Jesus! Come! <i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">The Fourth Week of Advent— Saturday</p> <p>Oh, God-With-Us, For so long you have promised forgiveness, peace, salvation. Now in my heart, I am filled with joy because of your coming. Thank you for your promises and for the way I can trust in you. I feel a new freedom in my life and a courage I have not known before. I know you came to save me and bring new life and I am so grateful to you. Let me show my thankfulness with my life. You have brought me through the darkness and into the light of your saving grace. Guide my feet on the way of peace. <i>Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!</i></p>		

Prayers During Christmas Time

Christmas Tree Blessing

Holy Creator of Trees,
Bless with your abundant grace this
our Christmas tree
as a symbol of joy.
May its evergreen branches
be a sign of your never-fading
promises.
May its colorful lights
and ornaments call us to decorate
with love our home and our world.
May the gifts that surround
this tree be symbols of the gifts that
we have received from
the Tree of Christ's Cross.
Holy Christmas tree within our
home, may Joy and Peace come and
nest in your branches and in our
hearts. Amen.

Christmas Prayer of Pope John XXIII

O sweet Child of Bethlehem,
grant that we may share with all our
hearts in this profound
mystery of Christmas. Put into the
hearts of men and women this peace
for which they sometimes seek so
desperately and which you alone can
give to them.
Help them to know one another bet-
ter, and to live as brothers and sis-
ters, children of the same
Father. Reveal to them also your
beauty, holiness and purity.
Awaken in their hearts love and grat-
itude for your infinite
goodness.
Join them all together in your love.
And give us your heavenly peace.
Amen.

Nativity Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian

The feast day of your birth
resembles You, Lord Because it
brings joy to all humanity.
Old people and infants alike enjoy
your day. Your day is celebrated from
generation to generation.
Kings and emperors may pass away,
And the festivals to commemorate
them soon lapse.
But your festival will be remembered
until the end of time. Your day is a
means and a pledge of peace.
At Your birth heaven and earth were
reconciled, Since you came from
heaven to earth on that day You
forgave our sins and wiped away our
guilt. You gave us so many gifts on
the day of your birth:
A treasure chest of spiritual
medicines for the sick; Spiritual light
for the blind; The cup of salvation for
the thirsty; The bread of life for the
hungry. In the winter when trees are
bare, You give us the most succulent
spiritual fruit. In the frost when the
earth is barren, You bring new hope
to our souls. In December when
seeds are hidden in the soil, The staff
of life springs forth from the virgin
womb. Amen.