

The Lord Almighty grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end. Amen.

Leader: Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

People: **The maker of heaven and earth.**

Collect for Advent

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins to God and our Neighbor:

God of all mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

*Leader: May the Almighty God grant us forgiveness of all our sins,
and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Leader: O God, make speed to save us.

People: O Lord, make haste to help us.

People: Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Scripture: Luke 1:39-55

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

 "My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

 Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

 and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him

 from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

 and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,

 and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,

 in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

 to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Leader: Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

People: Thanks be to God.

Meditation-: Proclaiming the Dream

Leader: This time of Advent is full of preparation and prayer, where we are called to make preparations for the indwelling of the Lord. But we are also called to proclaim this Good News in the world. Mary was carrying Christ into the world; it wasn't always easy or comfortable, and yet she was able to deliver this life-giving change into a broken world—a broken world that led her to boldly share the challenges of God who bestowed her with a child. Mary knows that God will cast out the mighty and the rich and lift up the lowly. She is moved to proclaim this powerful message.

During our own preparations for Advent, how can we emulate Mary, teach Mary, and encourage children to embody Mary? How can we carry Christ into a broken world, especially when it isn't easy or comfortable? Where are we called to boldly proclaim the dream of God put to words by Mary in the Magnificat? Ultimately, we are able to enter into this proclamation through God's bountiful grace and mercy, following the example of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary. — the Rev. Lydia Simmons

V. Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;

R. For you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.

V. Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of your eye;

R. Hide us under the shadow of your wings.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Leader: Lord, hear our prayer;

People: And let our cry come to you.

Leader: Let us pray. Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in thy mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.

Prayers of Petition for Our Families Friends and Neighbors

Leader: Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

**People: Light of the world, in grace and beauty,
mirror of God's eternal face,
transparent flame of love's free duty,
You bring salvation to our human race.⁷**

People: Sacred Mystery, you are the prime mover in our lives. We ask that, in these days of preparation, you inspire us to proclaim, by word and example, the dream of your beloved community. Amen.⁸

The Song of Simeon *Nunc dimittis*

Luke 2:29-32

Lord, you now have set your servant free *
to go in peace as you have promised;

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:

A Light to enlighten the nations, *
and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Leader: Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. Amen.

About this Service:

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Excerpts of the service are from Preparing to Become the Beloved Community, Advent Year C
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