

Advent 2023

Advent, which is the beginning of the Church Year, begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and lasts through Christmas Eve. Advent, which means “coming” or “arrival,” is a season when the Church reflects upon God’s promise to come to his people to save them. We look back to the First Advent of Jesus and look ahead to his Second Advent.

An Advent Wreath is often used to symbolize the season. It contains four candles, one for each Sunday. An additional candle is lit each Sunday, so that by the fourth Sunday all four candles are lit. Three of these candles are purple and one is rose. At the center is a fifth candle, the white Christ Candle, which is lit on Christmas Day. The first candle and the first Sunday represent expectation and hope and are often linked to the prophetic promises of the Old Testament. The third Sunday, represented by the rose candle, is Gaudete Sunday, and is a call to rejoice (*gaudete*) in anticipation of God’s imminent arrival.

Overleaf are some readings to guide you through the season.

The Sunday readings are drawn from the Revised Common Lectionary Year B. Each Sunday has four readings: Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, and Gospel. The Gospel is the primary reading, supported by the other three. The Gospel readings progress through three major themes of Advent: readiness for Christ’s second coming (Sunday 1), the ministry of John the Baptist in preparing the way for Jesus (2-3), and the annunciation of the birth of Jesus (4).

The weekday readings progress through God’s promises to come to his people (week 1), the preparatory ministry of John the Baptist (2), and the annunciation and birth of Jesus (3).



Readings for Advent 2023

First Sunday of Advent: Dec 3

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

Weekday readings

M 4 Isaiah 64:1-12
T 5 Isaiah 35:1-10
W 6 Isaiah 62:1-12
T 7 Isaiah 7:1-17
F 8 Isaiah 9:1-7
S 9 Isaiah 11:1-9

Second Sunday of Advent: Dec 10

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

Weekday readings

M 11 Luke 1:5-25
T 12 Luke 1:57-80
W 13 Luke 3:1-20
T 14 John 1:1-18
F 15 John 1:19-34
S 16 Matthew 11:1-19

Third Sunday of Advent: Dec 17

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

Weekday readings

M 18 Luke 1:26-38
T 19 Luke 1:39-56
W 20 Luke 2:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25
T 21 Luke 2:8-21
F 22 Matthew 2:1-12
S 23 Luke 2:22-40

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Dec 24

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38