

LIVING GOD'S WORD



SCRIPTURE AND REFLECTION
FOR EACH DAY OF ADVENT

CHURCH YEAR B

INTRODUCTION



The season of Advent presents a vision of the future that at once excites us with extraordinary hope and teases us with nervous expectation. Just four weeks to prepare ourselves! Unlike hanging the lights on the tree and shopping for the perfect gifts, Advent calls for a spiritual preparation to help us celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Son of God. To assist you with your commitment to prepare, this booklet

offers brief passages from the daily readings followed by questions to guide your reflection, along with space in which to jot down your response.

In the gift-giving tradition of Christmas, your spiritual preparation will help you choose the gift you want to give to Jesus. And the gift that Jesus wants more than anything else is you. How prepared do you feel to give yourself, your whole self, every facet of your life, to doing God's will? Your daily reflections on God's word will help you discover who you are and how God is working in your life. In your daily reflection, response and prayer, you open your heart to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and to a deeper awareness of Christ's presence.

The mystery of Christ's presence began when the Son of God took on flesh and became human. Christmas is the joyous celebration of this glorious occasion. Shopping, baking, decorating and singing carols are all good ways to gather with others and celebrate the birth of Jesus. These tempting activities, however, can distract us from what is truly important—giving ourselves to the One who gave his life for us.

Jesus wants to spend time with you. That's the best Christmas gift—not only for him, but for yourself. With a fuller awareness of Christ's presence and the wisdom of Scripture to guide your way, you will bring the Light of Christ wherever you go.

Deborah A. Meister

November 30

ST. ANDREW

He said to [Peter and his brother Andrew],
“Come after me, and I will make you fishers
of men.” At once they left their nets and
followed him.

Matthew 4:19-20

Live God's Word

These ordinary fishermen must have seen something special in Jesus to drop everything and go with him. The gospels describe Jesus' life and his teachings. What most attracts you to follow Jesus? How can you grow closer to him? What similarities to the apostles do you see in yourself?

Then [Jesus] took the seven loaves and the fish, gave thanks, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied. They picked up the fragments left over—seven baskets full.

Matthew 15:36-37

Jesus feeds a huge crowd with what little food

Live God's Word

his disciples give to him. Likewise, Jesus will take the gifts you have and multiply them in ways you cannot imagine. Name the gifts God has given to you. How do your gifts make a difference to others and yourself?

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

December 3

A nation of firm purpose you keep in peace;
in peace, for its trust in you.

Isaiah 26:3

Horizontal lines for writing.

Horizontal lines for writing.

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We see the need for unity and peace in our world, and we pray, "Let there be peace on earth." What stands in the way of peace in your own family, place of work and neighborhood? What are you willing to sacrifice to bring people together?

Isaiah 26:1-6 • Psalm 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27 • Matthew 7:21, 24-27

December 4

FRIDAY, FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

**Then he touched their eyes and said, “Let it be done for you according to your faith.”
And their eyes were opened.**

Matthew 9:29-30

Live God's Word

We can be blind to the needs of others and to our own spiritual needs. Time spent in quiet prayer brings us closer to Jesus so that we feel his healing touch. Close your eyes and imagine Jesus reaching out to you. What needs healing in your life?

The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.

Matthew 9:37-38

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Like the disciples, we are called to work in the fields and spread the Good News. How does your preparation for Christmas help you focus on the good news of Jesus' birth? How will you more mindfully turn your attention toward Jesus each day of Advent?

Imagine not only reading God's Word, but more fully living it! *Living God's Word*, a unique resource written by **Deborah A. Meister**, will guide you through every day of Advent with the Church's Mass readings as your muse. Original prayers and journaling prompts, encouraging you to write out your impressions for each day of the season, are accompanied by short reflections.

This unique combination of ingredients will allow you to prepare your whole heart to welcome Jesus at Christmastime. Get your pen or pencil ready and begin creating a keepsake for yourself based on the timeless readings of the Bible.



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