

Advent Psalms

The Sunday Lectionary that Christ Church usually follows for Sunday worship features 9 Psalms in the **3 cycles of Advent, Years A, B, and C**. You can see this lectionary on page 717 of your new Book of Common Prayer, as well as on the next page. (Advent 2019 began Year A. **Advent 2020 is Year B.**)

The 9 Psalms chosen for reading on the Advent Sundays reflect important Advent themes. The Psalms chosen for Advent are (in their order in the Psalter):

Psalms 24, 50, 72, 80, 85, 122, 126, 132, and 146

Psalms 24 and 50 are psalms originally used in the liturgy of temple worship, and Psalm 146 is a hymn of praise.

Psalms 72 and 132 are royal psalms, and Psalm 122 is a Song of Zion.

Psalms 80, 85 and 126 are community laments reflecting God's peoples' need for hope, care, tending, restoration, mercy and truth, righteousness and peace. Like us, they desperately needed Light and Life in the darkness of sin and death.

Psalms 24 and 50 are set in Israel's worship, which provides the opening setting of Luke's Gospel. In the Temple setting, Luke takes us back into Israel's worshipping community with John the Baptist's parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth, and with faithful Anna and Simeon who meet Mary and Joseph and the infant Jesus in the temple.

Think about Israel's worship of YHWH and how YHWH was bringing salvation, healing, wholeness, and integrity to those who worshiped Him. Imagine praying Psalms 24 and 50 as Zechariah or Elizabeth, Anna or Simeon, Mary or Joseph. Sing Psalm 146 with them, pondering their and your own faith/trust challenges. Compare Psalm 146 to Mary's Magnificat in Luke 1:46-55.

Our Psalms group will focus on Year B's Advent psalms:

- December 6 — **Psalm 80**
- December 13 — **Psalms 85 and 126**
- December 20 — **Psalm 132**

See the next page for a listing of all of the **Advent Psalms** by year plus the four **Advent Collects** used every year.

But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens
and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

—2 Peter 3:13

Psalms and Collects of Advent

Sunday Lectionary Psalms

(Year A started with Advent 2019. **Year B is Advent 2020.** Year C will be Advent 2021)

Sunday in Advent	Year A	Year B	Year C
First	Ps 122	Ps 80 <i>or</i> 80:1-7	Ps 50 <i>or</i> 50:1-6
Second	Ps 72:1-15(16-19)	Ps 85	Ps 126
Third	Ps 146	Ps 126	Ps 85
Fourth	Ps 24	Ps 132:(1-7) 8-19	Ps 80:1-7

The First Sunday in Advent

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Second Sunday in Advent

Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Third Sunday in Advent

O Lord Jesus Christ, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries may likewise make ready your way, by turning the hearts of the disobedient toward the wisdom of the just, that at your second coming to judge the world, we may be found a people acceptable in your sight; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins from running the race that is set before us, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**