

Daily Bible Readings for December

The readings this month find us in the full swing of Advent. How did the people of Israel look for the coming of the Messiah into their world and how does that influence how we look forward to the coming of Christ in our world today? As we return to Year A in the lectionary cycle we see Matthew's Gospel coming into play. The readings from Galatians reflect Paul's influence on the early church's struggle with the role of keeping the law in relationship with living a life of faith. The Hebrew Scriptures remind us, through the words of the prophets, of the promised hope that will be realized with the coming of the Messiah, the Anointed One of God.

Our readings list comes from the Revised Common Lectionary recommended for use by the United Church of Christ and by many other Christian denominations in North America. The daily Bible readings are clustered into weeks with Sunday being the center of each week. The readings for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of each week orient our prayer and preparation for the Sunday lessons; the readings for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday reflect on Sunday's lessons.

In the worship of Grace Church we normally read only two lessons. However, many Sundays the Psalm for the day is also incorporated into the service as a Call to Worship or prayer.

2nd Week of Advent

Dec 1 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Isaiah 4:2-6
Acts 1:12-17, 21-26

Dec 2 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Isaiah 30:19-26
Acts 13:16-25

Dec 3 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Isaiah 40:1-11
John 1:19-28

Dec 4 *2nd Sunday of Advent*
Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

Dec 5 Psalm 21
Isaiah 24:1-16a
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Dec 6 Psalm 21
Isaiah 41:14-20
Romans 15:14-21

Dec 7 Psalm 21
Genesis 15:1-18
Matthew 12:33-37

3rd Week of Advent

Dec 8 Psalm 146:5-10
Ruth 1:6-18
2 Peter 3:1-10

Dec 9 Psalm 146:5-10
Ruth 4:13-17
2 Peter 3:11-18

Dec 10 Psalm 146:5-10
1 Samuel 2:1-8
Luke 3:1-18

Dec 11 *3rd Sunday of Advent*
Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Dec 12 Psalm 42
Isaiah 29:17-24
Acts 5:12-16

Dec 13 Psalm 42
Ezekiel 47:1-12
Jude 17-25

Dec 14 Psalm 42
Zechariah 8:1-17
Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34

4th Week of Advent

Dec 15 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
2 Samuel 7:1-17
Galatians 3:23-29

Dec 16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
2 Samuel 7:18-22
Galatians 4:1-7

Dec 17 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
2 Samuel 7:23-29
John 3:31-36

Dec 18 *4th Sunday of Advent*
Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

Dec 19 1 Samuel 2:1-10
Genesis 17:15-22
Galatians 4:8-20

Dec 20 1 Samuel 2:1-10
Genesis 21:1-21
Galatians 4:21—5:1

Dec 21 1 Samuel 2:1-10
Genesis 37:2-11
Matthew 1:1-17

Days around Christmas

Dec 22 Luke 1:46b-55
Isaiah 33:17-22
Revelation 22:6-7, 18-20

Dec 23 Luke 1:46b-55
2 Samuel 7:18, 23-29
Galatians 3:6-14

Dec 24 (a.m.) Luke 1:46b-55
Isaiah 60:1-6
Luke 1:67-80

Dec 24 *Nativity of the Lord I*
Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Dec 25 *Nativity of the Lord II*
Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

Dec 25 *Nativity of the Lord III*
Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]
John 1:1-14

Dec 26 Psalm 148
Wisdom 4:7-15
Acts 7:59—8:8

Dec 27 Psalm 148
Proverbs 8:22-31
1 John 5:1-12

Dec 28 Psalm 148
Isaiah 49:13-23
Matthew 18:1-14

Dec 29 Psalm 20
Jeremiah 31:15-22
Luke 19:41-44

Dec 30 Psalm 20
Isaiah 26:1-9
2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Dec 31 Psalm 20
1 Kings 3:5-14
John 8:12-19

Jan 1 *Holy Name of Jesus*
(Mary, Mother of God)
Numbers 6:22-27
Psalm 8
Galatians 4:4-7 or Philipians 2:5-11
Luke 2:15-21

Jan 1 *New Year's Day*
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Psalm 8
Revelation 21:1-6a
Matthew 25:31-46

