

PRAY EVERY DAY December 20, 2020 Resource

*Advent Morning Prayer with Zechariah's Holy Spirit filled prayer from Luke 1:68-79*

*Advent Morning Prayer with Gabriel and Mary from Luke 1:28, 30-35, 37-38, NRSV*

***Gabriel – God's messenger***

Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.

Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

[Pray the verse above again with your name and the names of those praying with you included]

And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High,

and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.

He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

***Mary – the Godbearer called to bear Jesus into the world***

How can this be, since I am a virgin?

[What would you put after your "since"? Pray that again with your "since \_\_\_\_\_"]

***Gabriel – God's messenger***

The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;  
therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

For nothing will be impossible with God.

***Mary – the Godbearer called to bear Jesus into the world***

Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.

*Advent Evening Prayer with the Magnificat from Luke 1:47-54, NRSV*

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

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

for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

*Read the Gospel of Luke during Advent with one chapter each day.*

December 20, 22<sup>nd</sup> Day of Advent: Luke 22

25<sup>th</sup> Day of Advent: Unfinished chapters

23<sup>rd</sup> Day of Advent: Luke 23

Christmas Eve: Unfinished chapters

24<sup>th</sup> Day of Advent: Luke 24

Christmas Day: Unfinished chapters

*Small Group or personal study*

Read Luke 1:46-56

Practice daily Advent prayer with prayers above and readings from Luke.

- This passage is known as the "Magnificat" for the word "magnifies" that Mary used in her song. It is also known as "Mary's Song" and "Ode of the Theotokos (God-Bearer)". There are some Christians who pray this passage every evening. When Mary said these words she was already carrying Jesus as a God-bearer and she had just been blessed by Elizabeth. Pray these words as a God-

bearer who has invited Jesus into your life. As you pray the Magnificat, reflect on your day and how the words of this prayer encourage you to respond to what has happened.

- What is your previous experience with praying the Magnificat?
- What is your previous experience with evening prayer? What benefits could you see in praying at the end of each day?
- What are God's actions that are magnified in this prayer? What do these magnified actions of God reveal to you about God's character and activities?
- Which parts of the Magnificat are challenging to your faith or give you difficulty?
- Which parts of the Magnificat encourage you in your faith or build your understanding of God?

*The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2020 Challenge*

More resources at [www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge](http://www.vaumc.org/2020BibleChallenge)

December 2 – 23: "For When the Cares of the World Are Many"

December 24 – January 13: "Rest"

December 21: Psalm 66:13-15

December 25: Exodus 16:4-5

December 22: Psalm 66:16-18

December 26: Exodus 16:13-21

December 23: Psalm 66:19-20

December 27: Exodus 16:22-26

December 24: Genesis 2:1-3

*Spend time in silence*

*Prayer for others and yourself*

*The Lord's Prayer*

*A Daily Prayer for Racial Justice and Reconciliation*

*(The following prayer is offered by the Bishop's Work Group on Racial Justice and Reconciliation.)*

O loving God,

We give you thanks for creating the world which is full of diversity  
and for making one human family of all the peoples of the earth.

You reign over all the nations and are seated on your holy throne.

You rule over all the peoples without partiality in respect to nations or races  
because righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.

Forgive us for the times when we put walls around us with false pride and racial prejudice.

Forgive us for the times when we were silent in the face of racism, private or institutional.

Open our eyes to see Christ who is in people of every nation and every culture.

Break down the walls that separate us. Set us free from fear, hatred and racism.

Bind us together with the unity of God's love. Restore oneness to the family of God.

We pray in the name of Jesus who came, lived and died for all humanity. Amen.

*Share the Love of Jesus because It's All about Relationships*

How will you or how did you share the love of Jesus with neighbor today with no strings attached? Write it down and share it this week in small group for support and prayer.

*Blessing from Psalm 121:5-8, NRSV*

The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.