

PRAY EVERY DAY December 27, 2020 Resource

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

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.

Mid-day Prayer with Angel Song from Luke 2:10-12, 14, NRSV. Take time in the middle of the day to reflect on the words spoken to the shepherds working the late shift and the join in the song they sang.

Reflect on Angel Words

Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.

Pray the Angel Song

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!

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

Before Sleep Prayer with Simeon's Song from Luke 2:29-32, NRSV

Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2020 Challenge

December 28: Exodus 16:27-30

December 30: Exodus 31:12-18

December 29: Exodus 20:8-11

December 31: Matthew 12:1-8

The Bishop Sharma Lewis Read the Bible in 2021 Challenge (Genesis to Revelation)

January 1: Genesis 1 – 3

January 3: Genesis 8 – 11

January 2: Genesis 4 – 7

Small Group or personal study

Read Luke 2:21-38

Practice daily prayer with prayers above.

- Incorporate mid-day prayer this week into your routine with the exercise above. In Luke 2:1-20 shepherds were at work when the angels directed them toward the good news of how Jesus had come and in the middle of work they went to be a part of how Jesus came. Mid-day prayer even in the middle of work may open us up to how Jesus would give us grace in the middle of our day.
- Would mid-day prayer be new for you or a time you already pray regularly? How is mid-day prayer a blessing or difficult for you?
- Bishop Sharma Lewis has challenged us to read through the whole Bible in 2021 which would be about 3 chapters a day. This would be one way to spend time in God's word, promises, and stories of salvation.
- What has been your previous experience with reading through the Bible? Have you ever done it before? How are you reading (or not reading) the Bible now? If you were to read through the Bible in 2021, what would you need to help you do it (a Bible, an app for your phone, an audio Bible for listening rather than reading, a scheduled time)?
- Simeon's Song in Luke 2:29-32 is prayed by some Christians every day before bedtime. It is some of the last words they say, pray, or hear every night. Pray Simeon's Song as a bedtime prayer during the 12 Days of Christmas (through January 5).
- What is your experience with praying Simeon's Song? Are the words Simeon said like "peace" and "my eyes have seen your salvation" part of your experience of Jesus Christ, or would you say you have not experienced Jesus like that?

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.