

INSTRUCTIONS: The underlined text are headings and do not need to be read. [Brackets] are instructions to be followed, not necessarily read. (Parentheses) are references and not to be read. **FOR INDIVIDUAL PRAYER:** I suggest you read the prayer sheet aloud, but reading silently is fine too. Don't pay any attention to the ***Bold Italic Type***. **FOR GROUP PRAYER:** have one person act as leader. The leader reads the regular print and everyone reads the ***Bold Italic Type*** together.

Daily Prayer for the 1st Saturday of Advent

Opening Sentences:

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.^{ff}



For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like a garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.
[Isaiah 51:3]

Praying Together

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves. [Psalm 126:4-6] Amen.

Confession:

Before I take the body of my Lord, before I share his life in bread and wine, I recognize the sorry things within:

These I lay down.

The words of hope I often failed to give, the prayers of kindness buried by my pride, the signs of care I argued out of sight:

These I lay down.

The narrowness of vision and of mind, the need for other folk to serve my will, and every word and silence meant to hurt:

These I lay down.

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These I lay down.

Of those around in whom I meet my Lord, I ask their pardon and I grant them mine that every contradiction to Christ's peace

Might be laid down.

Lord Jesus Christ, companion at this feast, I empty now my heart and stretch my hands, and ask to meet you here in bread and wine

Which you lay down. Amen.**

Based on Isaiah 51:6:

Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath;

For the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment,

And those who live on it will die like gnats;

But my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

[Silent Prayer; or Music may be listened to; or a Hymn is sung.]

Prayers of the People:

God of the well-off worker, turn our hearts to hear the cry of the needy and give us humility to see how our ways oppress. Help us, dear Lord, to seek just ways and means, and to walk more closely with you. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

[Silent Prayer]

God of wisdom, teach us Lord to love you more dearly, hear you more clearly and follow you more nearly. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

[Silent Prayer]

God of mercy, help those who don't know where to turn or how to move forward. Give them strength and courage, dear Lord. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

[Silent Prayer]

Hear our prayer O Lord as we pray together:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Closing prayer:

And now, my God, send me to prepare the way for others, that they too may know your love and forgiveness. **Amen.**

*Missionstclare.com

^fFrom *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 211, Collects for Advent.

***These I Lay Down*, John Bell, 1989 (note: this is a confession written for a communion service but can be used in any setting.)

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