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Daily Prayer for the 3rd Sunday of Advent – www.HopeForNiagara.org

Opening Sentences:

God of hope, you call us home from the exile of selfish oppression to the freedom of justice, the balm of healing, and the joy of sharing..^{ff}

They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations...For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as the garden causes what is sown to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. (Isaiah 61:4, 8)



Praying Together

Lord, open our lips.

Our mouth shall proclaim your praise. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Confession: From Doctor Johnson's Prayers – edited by Elton Trueblood*

O Lord, in whose hands are life and death, by whose power we are sustained, and by whose mercy we are spared, look down upon us with pity.

Forgive us, that we have this day neglected the duty which You have assigned to it, and suffered the hours, of which we must give account, to pass away without any endeavor to accomplish Your will, or to promote our own salvation.

Make us to remember, O God, that every day is Your gift, and ought to be used according to Your command.

Grant us, therefore, to repent of our negligence, that we may obtain mercy from You, and pass the time which You shall yet allow us, in diligent performance of Your commands, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

From John 1:9

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

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

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Prayers of the People:

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.** [Silent Prayer]

Give us grace in all that we undertake, to do your will with joy and thanksgiving. **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.** [Silent Prayer]

For gentleness and kindness to reign in the hearts of your people. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.** [Silent Prayer]

For peace and goodwill among the nations; and for the well-being of all people we pray for justice and peace. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.** [Silent Prayer]

We pray, O Lord, for deliverance for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed and those in the prisons of their own making. We pray for all in need or trouble, come Christ Jesus, come. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.** [Silent Prayer]

We seek the peace that passes all understanding, O Lord, as we pray:.

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:

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel, shall come to thee O Israel. And now, as we wait with eager expectation for the light of our salvation, let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing. Now go in peace, to love and to serve the Lord in all you do. **Amén.**

^{ff} From Revised Common Lectionary Prayers, Consultation on Common Texts.

* From Doctor Johnson's Prayers – edited by Elton Trueblood, in *A Guide to Prayer for Ministers & Other Servants*, (prayer p. 258)

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