

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

Visit www.HopeForNiagara.org/DailyPrayer for video versions.

Daily Prayer for the 2nd Wednesday of Advent

Opening:

God of hope...you come to us and bring us home.
Comfort us with the expectation of your saving power,
made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord.^{ff}
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great
light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on
them light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2)



Praying Together

Lord, open our lips.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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. Alleluia.

Confession:

O God of mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. Far too often our thoughts, words and deeds are unkind and offensive to you. Our selfishness keeps us from truly loving you and our neighbors. Forgive us Lord. Create a new and clean heart within us. Remake us through your saving grace. Amen.

With contrite hearts and humble thanks we can rely on God to be merciful and just and cleans us from all unrighteousness.

From Luke 1:68-79 - The Song of Zechariah

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ***that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant,*** the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go

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before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

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

Prayers of the People:

For goodwill among nations and for the well-being of all people, we pray for justice and peace. *[Silent Prayer]*

For the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, those in prison and for those in any need or trouble, we pray for your comfort and help.

[Silent Prayer]

For all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of your boundless love, we pray that they may find and be found by you. *[Silent Prayer]*

For those who have died we pray that they have entered into your eternal peace and for those who grieve we pray they receive the consolation of your love.

[Silent Prayer]

For the blessings of the earth that sustains us and eyes to see the blessings you rain upon us every day, we pray for thankful hearts. *[Silent Prayer]*

Amen.

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:

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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