

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.

Daily Prayer for the 4th Friday of Advent
www.HopeForNiagara.org

Opening Sentences:

God of all ages, in the birth of Christ your boundless love for your people shattered the power of darkness. Be born in us with that same love and light, that our song may blend with all the choirs of heaven and earth to the glory of your holy name. Amen.^{ff}



And now, O Lord God, as for the word that you have spoken concerning your servant and concerning his house, confirm it forever; do as you have promised. Thus your name will be magnified forever in the saying, 'The Lord of hosts is God over Israel'; and the house of your servant David will be established before you. For you, O Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, have made this revelation to your servant, saying, 'I will build you a house'; therefore your servant has found courage to pray this prayer to you. (2 Samuel 7:25-27)

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:

God or all creation, we confess our sins to you with a heavy heart.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Thanks be to God for the assurance that, if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

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From Psalm 96:

O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

Say among the nations, "The LORD is king! The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. He will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar and all that fills it; let the field exult and everything in it.

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

Prayers of the People:

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** *[Silent Prayer]*

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** *[Silent Prayer]*

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of all Churches, and for the unity of all peoples, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** *[Silent Prayer]*

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, we pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.** *[Silent Prayer]*

Hear us 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:

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that your Spirit is with us always: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting.** **Amen.**

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

^{**}Adapted from the prayer of A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Image: Birth of Christ, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59697> [retrieved October 29, 2022]

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