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

Opening Sentences:

Light of life, you came in flesh ...
and gave us power to be your children. Grant us
faith, O Christ, to see your presence among us,
so that all of creation may sing new songs of
gladness and walk in the way of peace.^{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...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. (Isaiah 9:2, 6-7)

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:*

Heavenly Father, we praise you for adopting us as your children, and making us heirs of eternal life.

In your mercy you have washed us from our sins and made us clean in your sight.

Yet we still fail to love you as we should and serve you as we ought.

Forgive us our sins and renew us by your grace, that we may continue to grow as members of Christ, in whom alone is our salvation. Amen

From Psalm 65:8:

Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;
You make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

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

Prayers of the People:

We pray Lord that you gather us into your bosom and gently lead us into newness of love. **Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.** [Silent Prayer]

We ask in prayer, Almighty God, for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed and those in prison. We pray your care over all in need or trouble.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. [Silent Prayer]

We pray, heavenly Father, for a kinder, gentler America to emerge in the coming year.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. [Silent Prayer]

Grant, dear Lord, that every member of your Church be led to speak your Truth to those who wield their power in hurtful and unloving ways.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. [Silent Prayer]

We pray safe passage for all who must travel this holiday season. And we pray, protector God, that you keep us well as we go about our celebrations with care and thanksgiving.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer. [Silent Prayer]

Amen.

Hear us, 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:

As we leave this time of worship help us, Father, to be your light to all who walk in darkness, to be forgiveness to all who live in resentment, and to be love for all who sow hatred and mistrust. Let us go in peace, to love and to serve you always. **Amen.**

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

^{*}from *Australian Prayer Book*, Better Gatherings.com

Image: Christmas Card Hand Print -- <http://www.flickr.com/photos/yardsale/76188544/>

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