



ADVENT BIBLE CHALLENGE

Advent is a time of preparation. During Advent we prepare for our Lord's coming to us because the word *Advent* means "coming." We prepare for Jesus' first coming in the flesh to be our Savior. We prepare for His second coming when He will deliver us from this valley of sorrows and take us to Himself in heaven on the last day. We prepare for His continual coming to us in His Word and Sacrament and seek to recognize Him as He is revealed to us in them.

It is fitting, then, that during this time we would set aside time for extra prayer and study of the Bible. There are twenty-four chapters in the Book of Luke. If you read one chapter a day, beginning December 1, you will have studied the entire life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus by Christmas Eve. What better way to prepare for the coming of our Lord?

So here's the challenge: We're going to read one chapter of Luke each day of December, starting on December 1, so that by Christmas Eve, we have completed the Book of Luke. The table on the back is to help you know what to read and when. This table lists the date, the reading, and the prayers for each of those days. The prayers are based upon what you will have read in Luke for that day. In your prayer, you thank God for what is listed, and then you ask Him to do what is listed. It is an ancient form of prayer using the Bible as your springboard into prayer.

Here is a brief form that you can follow to help you order this time of preparation:

Make the sign of the holy cross and say:

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Read the Scripture reading appointed for the day.

Say the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer.

Pray the prayer for that day.

And that's it. You might also write down questions that come up while you are reading. Every Bible Class, Pastor begins with questions that people have. You could ask those questions there.

Are you up for the challenge? If so, the Board of Christian Education asks you to sign up on the pledge sheet in the Narthex (the back of the church). Why sign up? Because if you commit by putting your name down, you are more likely to carry it out. So, sign up, and see who else is with you. Encourage one another as you make your way through. We're in this together! And may the Word of God that you read this Advent prepare you for His first coming in the flesh, His second coming to take us to Himself in the resurrection at the end, and His continual coming in his holy Word and blessed Sacraments.

Date	Reading	Prayer
Sun, Dec 1, 2019	Luke 1	Thank: that we have certainty about what we have been taught Ask: that this certainty, through study, will increase
Mon, Dec 2, 2019	Luke 2	Thank: that we have a Savior from sin, death, and the devil Ask: that we would grow in wisdom and favor with God and men
Tue, Dec 3, 2019	Luke 3	Thank: that, through Baptism, we are God's children Ask: that our lives and conversation would reflect this reality
Wed, Dec 4, 2019	Luke 4	Thank: that, through the Word, we have help in temptation Ask: that Jesus would heal those in need
Thu, Dec 5, 2019	Luke 5	Thank: that Jesus has called us to be His disciples Ask: that we would follow Him more fervently in His Word
Fri, Dec 6, 2019	Luke 6	Thank: for the Sabbath rest we have in Christ and His Word Ask: that we would build everything upon Christ our Rock
Sat, Dec 7, 2019	Luke 7	Thank: for the forgiveness of sins Ask: for faith to forgive others as we have been forgiven in Christ
Sun, Dec 8, 2019	Luke 8	Thank: that His Word calms the storms of our lives Ask: that His Word, planted in our hearts, would yield good fruit
Mon, Dec 9, 2019	Luke 9	Thank: that Jesus is the Christ of God Ask: that we bear our cross with patience and trust as we follow Him
Tue, Dec 10, 2019	Luke 10	Thank: for the teaching of God's will in the Bible Ask: that we rejoice in the will of God and seek the one needful thing
Wed, Dec 11, 2019	Luke 11	Thank: for the sign of Jonah, which is Jesus' death and resurrection Ask: that we be blessed by God's Word and keep it
Thu, Dec 12, 2019	Luke 12	Thank: that we are worth more than sparrows to God Ask: that we have courage to acknowledge Jesus before men
Fri, Dec 13, 2019	Luke 13	Thank: for God's teaching on repentance Ask: that we not perish but repent and be saved
Sat, Dec 14, 2019	Luke 14	Thank: that God exalts those who are lowly Ask: that we renounce all that might get in the way of following Him
Sun, Dec 15, 2019	Luke 15	Thank: for the angels who protect us and rejoice at our repentance Ask: that, when lost in sin, God would find us and bring us home
Mon, Dec 16, 2019	Luke 16	Thank: for the gift of marriage and family Ask: that we would be faithful to God's Word in our families
Tue, Dec 17, 2019	Luke 17	Thank: for the gift of pastors who warn us of temptations to sin Ask: that, through Word and Sacrament, our faith would increase
Wed, Dec 18, 2019	Luke 18	Thank: that He hears our pleas for mercy and our prayers Ask: that we not lose hope when it seems like He is ignoring us
Thu, Dec 19, 2019	Luke 19	Thank: for God's compassion on sinners Ask: that, through God's Word, salvation would come and remain in our home
Fri, Dec 20, 2019	Luke 20	Thank: for good government Ask: that we do our civic duty joyfully as though we were serving You
Sat, Dec 21, 2019	Luke 21	Thank: for Christ's constant coming in Word and Sacrament Ask: that, by faith and trust in God, we would give as the widow gave
Sun, Dec 22, 2019	Luke 22	Thank: for the Lord's Supper and all its gifts Ask: that we would see our need for it and desire it often
Mon, Dec 23, 2019	Luke 23	Thank: for the death of Jesus which paid for all our sin Ask: that we die in faith commending our spirit into the Father's hands
Tue, Dec 24, 2019	Luke 24	Thank: for the resurrection of Jesus and of all those who die in faith Ask: that we recognize Jesus as He is revealed in Scripture and in the breaking of the bread