



Meditations for Advent 2025

The Advent readings for this year are from Cycle 5.

WEEK ONE:

The meditations for the first week center on the restoration and blessing of God's people.

Sun 11/30 | Matt. 24:37-44

The opening reading for Advent points us to the second coming of the Lord, and calls us to be watchful and alert for the Lord's glorious advent.

Mon. 12/1 | Mk. 1:1-28

The opening of the Gospel and the initial events: John the Baptist, Jesus' baptism, the testing in the desert, the opening of the public ministry, and the calling of the first disciples. In the person of Jesus, the kingdom of God has come.

Tue. 12/2 | Mk. 1:29-45

Jesus begins his 3-fold ministry of teaching (vv. 21-22), deliverance (vv. 23-28), and healing (vv. 29-34), and this ministry spreads throughout all of Galilee.

Wed. 12/3 | Mk. 2:1-28

The healing of the paralytic shows the power and divinity of Jesus; the call of Levi reveals the orientation of Jesus' ministry to sinners. The newness and divine authority of his ministry is manifested.

Thu. 12/4 | Mk. 3:1-34

Jesus' ministry expands and receives new opposition. The calling of the 12 and the teaching on who his family is reconfigures life in the kingdom of God.

Fri. 12/5 | Mk. 4:1-20

The opening of the parables of the kingdom: the parable of the sower manifests how the kingdom of God *comes* into the world and is variously received.

Sat. 12/6 | Mk. 4:21-41

The parables continue: three further parables show how the kingdom of God grows in a hidden way and advances from small to great. The calming of the sea closes the chapter and tests the active faith of the disciples.

WEEK TWO:

The meditations for the second week focus on the message of John the Baptist about the coming of the kingdom.

Sun. 12/7 | Matt 3:1-12

This reading for the second Sunday of Advent points us to John the Baptist as the herald of the Lord's coming. John sums up all of the Old Testament prophets and witnesses to one who is greater than himself.

Mon. 12/8 | Mk 5:1-43

Three works of power are described in detail: the first (vv. 1-20) shows the power and mercy of the Lord; the second and third (vv. 21-43) show his power to heal and even to raise the dead.

Tue. 12/9 | Mk 6:1-29

The mission expands: Jesus is rejected at home; he sends out the 12 on mission; and the death of John signals a new phase in the Lord's ministry.

Wed. 12/10 | Mk 6:30-56

Jesus works wonders that point to his divinity and saving mission: the feeding of the 5,000 followed by Jesus coming to his disciples on the stormy water.

Thu. 12/11 | Mk 7:1-37

Jesus is challenged by the Pharisees (the issue of true purity), and the mission extends to Gentile lands (Tyre and Sidon).

Fri. 12/12 | Mk 8:1-21

Jesus as the bread of life: the feeding of the 4,000 and the discussion over leaven and true bread.

Sat. 12/13 | Mk 8:22 – 9:1

Following the healing of the blind man, Jesus reveals who he is and what he is called to suffer: the call to radical discipleship by following the way of the cross.

WEEK THREE:

The meditations for the remainder of Advent consider the promises of God that reach their fulfillment in Christ.

Sun. 12/14 | Matt 11:2-11

John the Baptist as the greatest yet, but greater still are those in the kingdom of God that Christ has come to bring.

Mon. 12/15 | Mk 9:2-29

As Jesus prepares for his sacrificial death, the Transfiguration shows Jesus coming in power and revealing who it is that will offer himself for us. The deliverance of the possessed boy is a call to faith and a witness to Jesus' transforming power.

Tue. 12/16 | Mk 9:30-50

A series of events and sayings: Jesus predicts his coming death a second time; he teaches his disciples what true greatness is; and he shows the radical demands of discipleship.

Wed. 12/17 | Mk 10:1-16

Jesus' contested teaching on marriage as intended from the beginning, and his call to enter the kingdom of God with the faith and simplicity of a child.

Thurs. 12/18 | Mk 10:17-52

The final events before his entry to Jerusalem: the rich man called; the passion predicted a third time; what true greatness is; and the healing of blind Bartimaeus.

Fri. 12/19 | Mk 11:1-33

The triumphal entry and the growing conflict between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders.

Sat. 12/20 | Mk 12:1-27

Teaching amidst opposition: controversies with the Pharisees, Herodians, and Sadducees: What it means to serve and watch faithfully for the return of the master.

WEEK FOUR:

Sun. 12/21 | Matt 1:18-24

The coming of the Word made flesh: Joseph is told how Mary will give birth to a son conceived by the Holy Spirit, who will be Emmanuel (God with us).

Mon. 12/22 | Is. 7:14

The two great commandments of love of God and neighbor; the coming Messiah as David's greater son; and life in the kingdom as the offering of all that we have (the poor widow).

Tue. 12/23 | Mk 9:30-50

The signs of the coming of the Son of Man: a call to take heed and not to be led astray.

Wed. 12/24 | Mk 10:1-16

The urgent call to watch in every season and time for the return of Christ our Lord and Master.