LECTIONARY READINGS

Advent lectionary readings, Year B, 2026

The Revised Common Lectionary readings for the four Sundays of Advent and Christmas Eve, 2026, printed in full.



THE READINGS

First Sunday of Advent 2
Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

Second Sunday of Advent 4
Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

Third Sunday of Advent 6
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126, or Luke 1:46b-55; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Fourth Sunday of Advent 8
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55, or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Christmas Eve 10
Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14, with 15-20 optional

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2026

First Sunday of Advent

READ ISAIAH 64:1-9

> 1 If only You would rend the heavens and come down, so that mountains would
> quake at Your presence, 2 as fire kindles the brushwood and causes the water to
> boil, to make Your name known to Your enemies, so that the nations will
> tremble at Your presence! 3 When You did awesome works that we did not
> expect, You came down, and the mountains trembled at Your presence. 4 From
> ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God
> besides You, who acts on behalf of those who wait for Him. 5 You welcome those
> who gladly do right, who remember Your ways. Surely You were angry, for we
> sinned. How can we be saved if we remain in our sins? 6 Each of us has become
> like something unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all
> wither like a leaf, and our iniquities carry us away like the wind. 7 No one calls
> on Your name or strives to take hold of You. For You have hidden Your face
> from us and delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. 8 But now, O LORD, You
> are our Father; we are the clay, and You are the potter; we are all the work of
> Your hand. 9 Do not be angry, O LORD, beyond measure; do not remember our
> iniquity forever. Oh, look upon us, we pray; we are all Your people!

READ PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

> 1 Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel, who leads Joseph like a flock; You who sit
> enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth 2 before Ephraim, Benjamin, and
> Manasseh. Rally Your mighty power and come to save us. 3 Restore us, O God,
> and cause Your face to shine upon us, that we may be saved. 4 O LORD God of
> Hosts, how long will Your anger smolder against the prayers of Your people?
> 5 You fed them with the bread of tears and made them drink the full measure of
> their tears. 6 You make us contend with our neighbors; our enemies mock us.
> 7 Restore us, O God of Hosts, and cause Your face to shine upon us, that we may
> be saved. 17 Let Your hand be upon the man at Your right hand, on the son of
> man You have raised up for Yourself. 18 Then we will not turn away from You;
> revive us, and we will call on Your name. 19 Restore us, O LORD God of Hosts;
> cause Your face to shine upon us, that we may be saved.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I always thank my God for you because of the grace He has given you in Christ Jesus. 5 For in Him you have been enriched in every way, in all speech and all knowledge, 6 because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. 7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly await the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will sustain you to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God, who has called you into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

READ MARK 13:24-37

24 But in those days, after that tribulation: 'The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; 25 the stars will fall from the sky, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.' 26 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. 27 And He will send out the angels to gather His elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. 28 Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its branches become tender and sprout leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things happening, know that He is near, right at the door. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have happened. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away. 32 No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on your guard and stay alert! For you do not know when the appointed time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey who left his house, put each servant in charge of his own task, and instructed the doorkeeper to keep watch. 35 Therefore keep watch, because you do not know when the master of the house will return—whether in the evening, at midnight, when the rooster crows, or in the morning. 36 Otherwise, he may arrive without notice and find you sleeping. 37 And what I say to you, I say to everyone: Keep watch!"

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2026

Second Sunday of Advent

READ ISAIAH 40:1-11

1 “Comfort, comfort My people,” says your God. 2 “Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her that her forced labor has been completed; her iniquity has
been pardoned. For she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all
her sins.” 3 A voice of one calling: “Prepare the way for the LORD in the
wilderness; make a straight highway for our God in the desert. 4 Every valley
shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill made low; the uneven ground
will become smooth, and the rugged land a plain. 5 And the glory of the LORD
will be revealed, and all humanity together will see it.” For the mouth of the
LORD has spoken. 6 A voice says, “Cry out!” And I asked, “What should I cry
out?” “All flesh is like grass, and all its glory like the flowers of the field. 7 The
grass withers and the flowers fall when the breath of the LORD blows on them;
indeed, the people are grass. 8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the
word of our God stands forever.” 9 Go up on a high mountain, O Zion, herald of
good news. Raise your voice loudly, O Jerusalem, herald of good news. Lift it up,
do not be afraid! Say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” 10 Behold, the
Lord GOD comes with might, and His arm establishes His rule. His reward is
with Him, and His recompense accompanies Him. 11 He tends His flock like a
shepherd; He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart.
He gently leads the nursing ewes.

READ PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

1 You showed favor to Your land, O LORD; You restored Jacob from captivity.
2 You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered all their sin. Selah 8 I will
listen to what God the LORD will say; for He will surely speak peace to His
people and His saints; He will not let them return to folly. 9 Surely His salvation
is near to those who fear Him, that His glory may dwell in our land. 10 Loving
devotion and faithfulness have joined together; righteousness and peace have
kissed. 11 Faithfulness sprouts from the earth, and righteousness looks down
from heaven. 12 The LORD will indeed provide what is good, and our land will
yield its increase. 13 Righteousness will go before Him to prepare the way for His
steps.

READ 2 PETER 3:8-15a

8 Beloved, do not let this one thing escape your notice: With the Lord a day is
like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. 9 The Lord is not slow
in keeping His promise as some understand slowness, but is patient with you,
not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance. 10 But the
Day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar,
the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and its works will be laid
bare. 11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought
you to be? You ought to conduct yourselves in holiness and godliness 12 as you
anticipate and hasten the coming of the day of God, when the heavens will be
destroyed by fire and the elements will melt in the heat. 13 But in keeping with
God's promise, we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where
righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, as you anticipate these things, make
every effort to be found at peace—spotless and blameless in His sight. 15 Consider
also that our Lord's patience brings salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul
also wrote you with the wisdom God gave him.

READ MARK 1:1-8

1 This is the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is
written in Isaiah the prophet: "Behold, I will send My messenger ahead of You,
who will prepare Your way." 3 "A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare
the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him.'" 4 John the Baptist appeared
in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
5 People went out to him from all of Jerusalem and the countryside of Judea.
Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. 6 John was
clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts
and wild honey. 7 And he proclaimed: "After me will come One more powerful
than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I
baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2026

Third Sunday of Advent

READ ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11

1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is on Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to
preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to
proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the
year of the LORD's favor and the day of our God's vengeance, to comfort all
who mourn, 3 to console the mourners in Zion—to give them a crown of beauty
for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and a garment of praise for a spirit of
despair. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD,
that He may be glorified. 4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins; they will restore
the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities, the desolations of
many generations. 8 For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery and iniquity; in
My faithfulness I will give them their recompense and make an everlasting
covenant with them. 9 Their descendants will be known among the nations, and
their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they
are a people the LORD has blessed. 10 I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, my soul
will exult in my God; for He has clothed me with garments of salvation and
wrapped me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom wears a priestly
headdress, as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings
forth its growth, and as a garden enables seed to spring up, so the Lord GOD
will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

READ PSALM 126

1 When the LORD restored the captives of Zion, we were like dreamers. 2 Then
our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with shouts of joy. Then it
was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." 3 The
LORD has done great things for us; we are filled with joy. 4 Restore our captives,
O LORD, like streams in the Negev. 5 Those who sow in tears will reap with
shouts of joy. 6 He who goes out weeping, bearing a trail of seed, will surely
return with shouts of joy, carrying sheaves of grain.

READ LUKE 1:46b-55

46 Then Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God
my Savior! 48 For He has looked with favor on the humble state of His servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed. 49 For the Mighty One has
done great things for me. Holy is His name. 50 His mercy extends to those who
fear Him, from generation to generation. 51 He has performed mighty deeds with
His arm; He has scattered those who are proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones, but has exalted the humble.
53 He has filled the hungry with good things, but has sent the rich away empty.
54 He has helped His servant Israel, remembering to be merciful, 55 as He
promised to our fathers, to Abraham and his descendants forever.”

READ 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24

16 Rejoice at all times. 17 Pray without ceasing. 18 Give thanks in every
circumstance, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not extinguish
the Spirit. 20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt, 21 but test all things. Hold
fast to what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil. 23 Now may the God of
peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your entire spirit, soul, and
body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The One who
calls you is faithful, and He will do it.

READ JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28

6 There came a man who was sent from God. His name was John. 7 He came as a
witness to testify about the Light, so that through him everyone might believe.
8 He himself was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. 19 And this
was John’s testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to
ask him, “Who are you?” 20 He did not refuse to confess, but openly declared, “I
am not the Christ.” 21 “Then who are you?” they inquired. “Are you Elijah?” He
said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” He answered, “No.” 22 So they said to
him, “Who are you? We need an answer for those who sent us. What do you say
about yourself?” 23 John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet: “I am a voice
of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord.’” 24 Then
the Pharisees who had been sent 25 asked him, “Why then do you baptize, if you
are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” 26 “I baptize with water,” John
replied, “but among you stands One you do not know. 27 He is the One who

comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie.” [28]All this happened at Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Advent

READ 2 SAMUEL 7:1-11, 16

[1]After the king had settled into his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, [2]he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.” [3]And Nathan replied to the king, “Go and do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.” [4]But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying, [5]“Go and tell My servant David that this is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build for Me a house to dwell in? [6]For I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt until this day, but I have moved about with a tent as My dwelling. [7]In all My journeys with all the Israelites, have I ever asked any of the leaders I appointed to shepherd My people Israel, ‘Why haven’t you built Me a house of cedar?’ [8]Now then, you are to tell My servant David that this is what the LORD of Hosts says: I took you from the pasture, from following the flock, to be the ruler over My people Israel. [9]I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make for you a name like that of the greatest in the land. [10]And I will provide a place for My people Israel and will plant them so that they may dwell in a place of their own and be disturbed no more. No longer will the sons of wickedness oppress them as they did at the beginning [11]and have done since the day I appointed judges over My people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD declares to you that He Himself will establish a house for you. [16]Your house and kingdom will endure forever before Me, and your throne will be established forever.”

READ LUKE 1:46b-55

46 Then Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God
my Savior! 48 For He has looked with favor on the humble state of His servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed. 49 For the Mighty One has
done great things for me. Holy is His name. 50 His mercy extends to those who
fear Him, from generation to generation. 51 He has performed mighty deeds with
His arm; He has scattered those who are proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones, but has exalted the humble.
53 He has filled the hungry with good things, but has sent the rich away empty.
54 He has helped His servant Israel, remembering to be merciful, 55 as He
promised to our fathers, to Abraham and his descendants forever.”

READ PSALM 89:1-4, 19-26

1 I will sing of the loving devotion of the LORD forever; with my mouth I will
proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations. 2 For I have said, “Loving devotion
is built up forever; in the heavens You establish Your faithfulness.” 3 You said, “I
have made a covenant with My chosen one, I have sworn to David My servant:
4 ‘I will establish your offspring forever and build up your throne for all
generations.’” Selah 19 You once spoke in a vision; to Your godly ones You said, “I
have bestowed help on a warrior; I have exalted one chosen from the people. 20 I
have found My servant David; with My sacred oil I have anointed him. 21 My
hand will sustain him; surely My arm will strengthen him. 22 No enemy will exact
tribute; no wicked man will oppress him. 23 I will crush his foes before him and
strike down those who hate him. 24 My faithfulness and loving devotion will be
with him, and through My name his horn will be exalted. 25 I will set his hand
over the sea, and his right hand upon the rivers. 26 He will call to Me, ‘You are
my Father, my God, the Rock of my salvation.’

READ ROMANS 16:25-27

25 Now to Him who is able to strengthen you by my gospel and by the
proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery
concealed for ages past 26 but now revealed and made known through the
writings of the prophets by the command of the eternal God, in order to lead all
nations to the obedience that comes from faith– 27 to the only wise God be glory
forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

READ LUKE 1:26-38

> 26 In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee called
> Nazareth, 27 to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was of
> the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel appeared to
> her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."
> 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting
> this might be. 30 So the angel told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have
> found favor with God. 31 Behold, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and
> you are to give Him the name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son
> of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David,
> 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never
> end!" 34 "How can this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" 35 The
> angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most
> High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of
> God. 36 Look, even Elizabeth your relative has conceived a son in her old age,
> and she who was called barren is in her sixth month. 37 For no word from God
> will ever fail." 38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it happen to
> me according to your word." Then the angel left her.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2026

Christmas Eve

READ ISAIAH 9:2-7

> 2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the
> land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned. 3 You have enlarged the nation
> and increased its joy. The people rejoice before You as they rejoice at harvest
> time, as men rejoice in dividing the plunder. 4 For as in the day of Midian You
> have shattered the yoke of their burden, the bar across their shoulders, and the
> rod of their oppressor. 5 For every trampling boot of battle and every garment
> rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 For unto us a child is born,
> unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders. And He
> will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of
> Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end. He
> will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and sustain

it with justice and righteousness from that time and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of Hosts will accomplish this.

READ PSALM 96

1 Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. 2 Sing to the
LORD, bless His name; proclaim His salvation day after day. 3 Declare His glory
among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. 4 For great is the LORD, and
greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. 5 For all the gods of the
nations are idols, but it is the LORD who made the heavens. 6 Splendor and
majesty are before Him; strength and beauty fill His sanctuary. 7 Ascribe to the
LORD, O families of the nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
8 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering and enter His
courts. 9 Worship the LORD in the splendor of His holiness; tremble before Him,
all the earth. 10 Declare among the nations: "The LORD reigns!" The world is
firmly established; it cannot be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity.
11 Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea resound, and all that
fills it. 12 Let the fields exult, and all that is in them. Then all the trees of the
forest will sing for joy 13 before the LORD, for He is coming—He is coming to
judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in His
faithfulness.

READ TITUS 2:11-14

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to everyone. 12 It
instructs us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live sensible,
upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13 as we await the blessed hope and
glorious appearance of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. 14 He gave Himself
for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for Himself a people for
His own possession, zealous for good deeds.

READ LUKE 2:1-20

1 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that a census
should be taken of the whole empire. 2 This was the first census to take place
while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 And everyone went to his own town to
register. 4 So Joseph also went up from Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city
of David called Bethlehem, since he was from the house and line of David. 5 He
went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to him in marriage and was
expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her Child to be
born. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped Him in
swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them
in the inn. 8 And there were shepherds residing in the fields nearby, keeping
watch over their flocks by night. 9 Just then an angel of the Lord stood before
them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.
10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid! For behold, I bring you good
news of great joy that will be for all the people: 11 Today in the city of David a
Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord! 12 And this will be a sign to
you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”
13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a great multitude of the heavenly
host, praising God and saying: 14 “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth
peace to men on whom His favor rests!” 15 When the angels had left them and
gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go to Bethlehem
and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”
16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the Baby, who was lying
in the manger. 17 After they had seen the Child, they spread the message they
had received about Him. 18 And all who heard it were amazed at what the
shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered
them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all
they had heard and seen, which was just as the angel had told them.