



# Advent 2025

## Call to Prayer

As the hopeful anticipation of our Advent journey nears its transition toward the joy of Christmas, we reflect on the transformational promise of Jesus' birth. We marvel with Mary who glorifies a Lord who lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with great things. We join Zechariah in blessing a God whose tender compassion breaks upon us like the dawn. These moments in sacred scripture are echoed by our Pope, Leo XIV and our foundress, Blessed Theresa. May they ground us in the profound promise of Christ's presence among us, and may they deepen God's invitation to us to be active artisans of oneness and peace.

## Songs (Choose One)

**Ven Señor Jesus** <https://youtu.be/5R9bFb8a4cw> • **I Want Jesus to Walk with Me** [https://youtu.be/yZeCsBxu0\\_Q](https://youtu.be/yZeCsBxu0_Q)  
[Find Lyrics translated in English & Spanish Here](#)

## Readings

**"Jesus was born** in humble surroundings and laid in a manger; then, to save him from being killed, they fled to Egypt... Indeed, that is how Jesus' poverty is best described: he experienced the same exclusion that is the lot of the poor, the outcast of society." (Pope Leo XIV, *Dilexi Te*, §19)

"Our faith in Christ, who became poor, and was always close to the poor and the outcast, is the basis of our concern for the integral development of society's most neglected members." (Pope Leo XIV, *Dilexi Te*, §23)

Bl. Theresa: "Let us, in these days especially go to the crib of Jesus with the poor shepherds and the holy wise men. With them let us also offer homage and sacrifice to him, so that we may share in the peace of God which the angels announced to all of good will on the fields of Bethlehem." (Letter #4517)

## Contemplative Reflection, Sharing or Journaling



**Tent City Nativity by Kelly Latimore**

**Meditate on the image** of the *Tent City Nativity* alongside the readings.

[Click here](#) to listen to an instrumental version of *O come, O Come, Emmanuel* [5:03min]

- How do the readings and the artwork speak to you in this Advent/Christmas Season?
- Toward what concrete acts of mercy and justice do you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you?



## *Prayers for the Community*

**We pray for those** oppressed by systems of inequality—may Christ's love inspire us to dismantle structures that inhibit the inclusion and flourishing of your people.

**R:** Show us pathways to be credible witnesses of universal communion!

Lord, You were born in a makeshift shelter; be present with all who live in tents, cars, or temporary housing today.

**R:** Show us pathways to be a welcoming and inclusive community!

As we await Your coming, teach us to wait in solidarity with those who wait for shelter, food, and safety.

**R:** God of hope, come!

We pray for us educators - Strengthen us who bring knowledge, healing, and dignity to people who are vulnerable, echoing the call to make education and care available to all.

**R:** Show us pathways to further systemic change.

For what else shall we pray?

[Pause]

## *Meditation by St. Augustine*

What does love look like?

It has the hands to help others.

It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy.

It has the eyes to see misery and want.

It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of others.

That is what love looks like.

## *Closing Blessings*

*May the divine child, Jesus, at whose crib we have laid all the wishes of our hearts, fulfill, in the new year of grace, whatever serves his honor and glory.* Blessed Theresa (letter, 2773)

*May the Infant Jesus in the crib fill your hearts with joy, guide you through the New Year, and be with you forever.*  
Fr. Job

# REJOICE

IN CHRIST'S BIRTH AND  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



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