**MORNING PRAYER READINGS
December 23-27, 2024
The Fourth Week of Advent & Days of Christmas**

**MONDAY IN THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT
December 23** (PSALM 61 & 62 BCP 668)

**FIRST LESSON** A reading from the Book of Isaiah [11:1-9]

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
   and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
   the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
   the spirit of counsel and might,
   the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
   or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
   and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
   and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
   and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
   the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
   and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
   their young shall lie down together;
   and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
   and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den.
They will not hurt or destroy
   on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
   as the waters cover the sea.

—Here ends the Lesson (*or* Reading).
[*OR* The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*]

**SECOND LESSON** A reading from the Revelation to John [20:1-10]

I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, and threw him into the pit, and locked and sealed it over him, so that he would deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be let out for a little while.

Then I saw thrones, and those seated on them were given authority to judge. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony to Jesus and for the word of God. They had not worshipped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. Over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

When the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison and will come out to deceive the nations at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, in order to gather them for battle; they are as numerous as the sands of the sea. They marched up over the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from heaven and consumed them. And the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

—Here ends the Lesson (*or* Reading).
[*OR* The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*]

**TUESDAY IN THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT
December 24** *in the morning*(BCP 212)
*Morning Prayer will not be prayed using Zoom today. Christmas liturgies will be livestreamed.*
The psalms and lessons are from the Daily Office Lectionary for Morning Prayer.
[Psalm 45 &](http://satucket.com/lectionary/Psalm45.html) [46](http://satucket.com/lectionary/Psalm46%2697.html)
[Isaiah 35:1-10](http://bible.oremus.org?passage=Isaiah+35:1-10)
[Revelation 22:12-17, 21](http://bible.oremus.org?passage=Revelation+22:12-17,21)
[Luke 1:67-80](http://bible.oremus.org?passage=Luke+1:67-80)

**WEDNESDAY, December 25**
**Holy Day: THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST: CHRISTMAS DAY** (BCP 213)
*Morning Prayer will not be prayed using Zoom today. Christmas liturgies will be livestreamed.*
The psalms and lessons are from the Daily Office Lectionary for this *First Day of Christmas.*
[Psalm 2 &](http://satucket.com/lectionary/Psalm1-3.html#psalm2) [85](http://bible.oremus.org?passage=Psalm+85)
[Zechariah 2:10-13](http://bible.oremus.org?passage=Zechariah+2:10-13)
[1 John 4:7-16](http://bible.oremus.org?passage=1+John+4:7-16)

**THURSDAY, December 26** (PSALM 28 & 30 BCP 619)
**Holy Day: ST STEPHEN, DEACON & MARTYR** (BCP 237)The lessons are from the Principal Service Lectionary for this *Second Day of Christmas.*

**FIRST LESSON** A reading from the Book of Jeremiah [26:1-9,12-15]

At the beginning of the reign of King Jehoiakim son of Josiah of Judah, this word came from the Lord:
Thus says the Lord:
Stand in the court of the Lord’s house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the Lord; speak to them all the words that I command you; do not hold back a word. It may be that they will listen, all of them, and will turn from their evil way, that I may change my mind about the disaster that I intend to bring on them because of their evil doings. You shall say to them: Thus says the Lord: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you, and to heed the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently—though you have not heeded— then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth.

The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the Lord. And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the Lord had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, ‘You shall die! Why have you prophesied in the name of the Lord, saying, “This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant”?’ And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the Lord.

Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, ‘It is the Lord who sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. Now therefore amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the Lord your God, and the Lord will change his mind about the disaster that he has pronounced against you. But as for me, here I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will be bringing innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the Lord sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.’

—Here ends the Lesson (*or* Reading).
[*OR* The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*]

**SECOND LESSON** A reading from the Acts of the Apostles [6:8—7:2a,51c-60]

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke.

Then they secretly instigated some men to say, ‘We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.’ They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council.

They set up false witnesses who said, ‘This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us.’ And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Then the high priest asked him, ‘Are these things so?’

And Stephen replied: ‘Brothers and fathers, listen to me.
As your ancestors [did, so do you.]
Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.’

When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’

But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’

When he had said this, he died.

—Here ends the Lesson (*or* Reading).
[*OR* The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*]

 **FRIDAY, December 27** (PSALM 97 & 98 BCP 726)
**Holy Day: ST JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST** (BCP 238)
The lessons are from the Principal Service Lectionary for this *Third Day of Christmas*

**FIRST LESSON** A reading from the Book of Exodus [33:18-23]

Moses said [to God], ‘Show me your glory, I pray.’

And he said, ‘I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, “The Lord”; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But’, he said, ‘you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.’

And the Lord continued, ‘See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.’

—Here ends the Lesson (*or* Reading).
[*OR* The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*]

**SECOND LESSON** A reading from the First Letter of John [1:1-9]

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

—Here ends the Lesson (*or* Reading).
[*OR* The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*]

**SATURDAY, December 28
Holy Day: THE HOLY INNOCENTS** (BCP 238)
*The Fourth Day of Christmas*
[Psalm 2 &](http://satucket.com/lectionary/Psalm1-3.html#psalm2) [26](http://satucket.com/lectionary/Psalm26%2628.html)
[Isaiah 49:13-23](http://bible.oremus.org?passage=Isaiah+49:13-23)
[Matthew 18:1-14](http://bible.oremus.org?passage=Matthew+18:1-14)

**SUNDAY, December 29**
**The First Sunday after Christmas Day**(BCP 213)
*The Fifth Day of Christmas*
[Psalm 93 & 96](http://satucket.com/lectionary/Psalm93%2696.html)
[Isaiah 62:6-7,10-12](http://bible.oremus.org?passage=Isaiah+62?:6-7,10-12)
[Hebrews 2: 10-18](http://bible.oremus.org?passage=Hebrews+2:10-18)
**NOTE ABOUT THE PSALTER SELECTIONS LISTED:**
In an effort to pray a majority of the 150 psalms every few months, those referenced above are appointed for mornings in *The Book of Common Prayer* during Advent & Christmastide.