

At-Home Service of Lament: Advent 2025

How to use this order: *First, set up your space. Gather a few candles and get comfortable. Make sure everyone has a copy of this order (either digitally or printed), and that you have the video for the sermon queued up to watch.*

*Second, follow along. This is intended to be a thoughtful guide for your prayers. This can be done either individually or responsively with others. If you do it in a group or as a family, one person may lead, while all join for the responses printed in **bold**. When a song is indicated, reference the provided playlist. When the message is indicated, play the video.*

It's my prayer that this be a meaningful guide to your prayers, as together we slow down, keep silence, and bring our prayers before our Almighty God. – Pastor Moon

If you are able, begin by listening to and/or singing “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”

Leader: O Lord, open my lips,

All: and my mouth will declare Your praise.

Leader: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

All: make haste to help me, O Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Psalm 28 (read responsively)

¹To you, O LORD, I call;
my rock, be not deaf to me,
**lest, if you be silent to me,
I become like those who go down to the pit.**

²Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy,
when I cry to you for help,
**when I lift up my hands
toward your most holy sanctuary.**

³Do not drag me off with the wicked,
with the workers of evil,
**who speak peace with their neighbors
while evil is in their hearts.**

⁴Give to them according to their work
and according to the evil of their deeds;
**give to them according to the work of their hands;
render them their due reward.**

⁵Because they do not regard the works of the LORD
or the work of his hands,
he will tear them down and build them up no more.

⁶Blessèd be the LORD!

For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.

⁷The LORD is my strength and my shield;
in him my heart trusts, and I am helped;
my heart exults,

and with my song I give thanks to him.

⁸The LORD is the strength of his people;
he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

⁹Oh, save your people and bless your heritage!
Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

A Message from Pastor Moon (Video)

Litany of Lament

We lift our laments to God in the ancient prayer form of the Litany. This form of prayer brings the community together to speak and respond to concrete petitions on behalf of the world, the church, and fellow believers. A leader may begin, and all join for the bolded responses.

O Lord, **have mercy.**

O Christ, **have mercy.**

O Lord, **have mercy.**

O Christ, **hear us.**

God the Father in heaven, **have mercy.**

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **have mercy.**

God the Holy Spirit, **have mercy.**

Be gracious to us. **Spare us, good Lord.**

Be gracious to us. **Help us, good Lord.**

By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter: **Help us, good Lord.**

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment: **Help us, good Lord.**

We poor sinners implore You, **to hear us, O Lord.**

Trusting that in Christ our God is mindful of us, we are invited to silently lament the experiences in our lives that do not seem to fit the promises of God's mercy. Take a few quiet moments to lift your silent laments before God.

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, **we implore You to hear us.**

Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **have mercy.**

Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **have mercy.**

Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, **grant us Your peace.**

O Christ, **hear us.**
O Lord, **how long?**
O Christ, **how long?**
O Lord, **how long?**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we place our laments, trusting you to answer them according to your mercy, and awaiting your final deliverance in the day of our Lord, Jesus Christ.
Amen

Listen to the song “Wait for the Lord” by The Songs of Taize Session Singers. While you listen quietly to this song, you may light a few candles as a symbol of Christ’s light in our darkness.

Lord’s Prayer

Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

Our Father who art in heaven,
 hallowed be Thy name,
 Thy kingdom come,
 Thy will be done on earth
 as it is in heaven;
 give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
 and the power and the glory
 forever and ever. Amen.

Listen to the song “Comfort Oh Comfort” by Caroline Cobb.

Blessing

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

All: Amen

Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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