



Awakened by Light: An Advent Journey

Advent is a season of watching, waiting, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ—the Light that no darkness can overcome. These short daily reflections are designed to draw your attention to that light as it appears in Scripture, in your surroundings, and within your own life.

Each day's reflection concludes with two invitations:

- **Where did you see the light today?** A brief prompt to notice God's presence—whether in joy, challenge, silence, or surprise.
- **Whisper Prayer:** A one-line prayer to carry in your heart as you go.

Together, these reflections are not just about arriving at Christmas. They are a way of walking with Christ as He draws near—and letting His light awaken something new in you along the way.

Second Sunday of Advent

Matthew 3:1-12

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

Reflection

Repentance is something we don't talk about much these days. It's a concept that has fallen out of favor. To the modern ear it is too much about regret and shame. And yet, every Advent we hear the Baptist's words, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" Why would the Church want to make us feel badly, especially this time of year, we might moan. But at the heart of this word is the theme of renewal and hope, not impoverishment. We're called, still, to change direction, to walk toward the light and what will ultimately save us, and away from what keeps us bound.

Where Did You See the Light Today?

Did you feel a gentle nudge to turn back toward God? What might He be inviting you to leave behind?

Whisper-Prayer

Jesus, turn my heart toward the light that saves.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary / Monday of the Second Week of Advent

Luke 1:26-38

"He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High."

Reflection

On the day we celebrate Mary's immaculate conception, the Gospel reading is the story of the annunciation of Jesus. And it is fitting. The Church is reminding us why it was so important for Mary to be immaculately conceived, preserved from the stain of original sin: "He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High..." Only the most pure could give birth to the second person of the Trinity.

Where Did You See the Light Today?

Did something today point you toward purity, beauty, or readiness? Did you sense Mary's quiet strength?

Whisper-Prayer

Mary, conceived without sin, pray for me, that I may be a worthy dwelling place for Christ.

Tuesday of the Second Week of Advent

Matthew 18:12-14

"In just the same way, it is not the will of your heavenly Father that one of these little ones be lost."

Reflection

Today's Gospel is a familiar one, and we often think about the "lost sheep" we as a Church are called to go out in search of. But we are also part of the flock, and even we can tend to stray, have moments of doubt, decide to go our own way. The shepherd in this parable reflects the heart of God. Whether the sheep was the strongest, the weakest, or the most ordinary—he would have gone in search of it because each one mattered to him. This speaks to God's deep, personal love for us. He knows each of us individually, and pursues us out of that love.

Where Did You See the Light Today?

When did you feel sought out, noticed, or deeply known?

Whisper-Prayer

Good Shepherd, find me when I wander.

Wednesday of the Second Week of Advent

Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.."

Reflection

There is an interesting paradox in today's Gospel reading. At first we hear Jesus telling the crowds that in him we can find rest from our labor and our burdens. A comfort any time but especially during Advent when our load may seem even heavier. But to find that rest he invites us to take his yoke, to carry his burden. Rest for a disciple is to work alongside Jesus, in meekness, in humility, bringing others into that same rest.

Where Did You See the Light Today?

Was there a moment of unexpected rest—or a reminder that you don't carry your burden alone?

Whisper-Prayer

Jesus, let me walk beside You and rest in Your strength.

Thursday of the Second Week of Advent

Matthew 11:11-15

"Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Reflection

Jesus wasn't a flatterer. He wasn't praising John the Baptist just to make him feel important. He was acknowledging his role in history—the history that was happening right then, at the time—and what was to come, after John was beheaded. "The least in the Kingdom of heaven is greater than he." And that means all Christians. Why? Because we possess what he pronounced: belief in Jesus as Son and savior.

Where Did You See the Light Today?

How has your life been changed because you believe Jesus is the Christ?

Whisper-Prayer

Jesus, thank You for calling me into the Kingdom.

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe / Friday of the Second Week of Advent

Luke 1:26-38

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

Reflection

In that close, one-on-one conversation between Mary and the angel Gabriel, Mary is told that she has been chosen out of all women, and in all time, to bear the Son of God. It is a light-filled moment—the turning point for all humankind. We hold our breath waiting for what could come next. And this young Jewish girl responds, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." It wasn't to be an easy or effortless task. There would be tears, and blood. But Mary understood that she was the one chosen, and her trust in God's unfailing love led to our ultimate salvation.

Where Did You See the Light Today?

Can you name one quiet, courageous "yes" you've said to God lately?

Whisper Prayer

Mary, light-bearer and mother of trust, pray for us to follow your yes with our own.

Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr / Saturday of the Second Week of Advent

Matthew 17:9a, 10-13

"So also will the Son of Man suffer at their hands."

Reflection:

In today's Gospel, the disciples—fresh from witnessing the transfiguration—are curious about the appearance of Elijah on the mountaintop. Now they are coming down the mountain, literally and figuratively, to face what's coming next. The vision of Jesus transfigured by light was given to strengthen them. This short conversation is part of their battle-readiness plan. Jesus explains that the authorities did not see that John had come in the spirit of Elijah, and they beheaded him. "So also will the Son of Man suffer at their hands." They need to be ready. And so do we. This is one of Advent's sobering moments: the Babe in the manger will suffer at the hands of those He came to save.

Where Did You See the Light Today?

Where do you need strength to follow Christ into difficulty?

Whisper Prayer

Jesus, Light of the world, help me not to look away when your path leads through suffering.