



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.

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

Matthew 11:2-11

"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."

Reflection

John wasn't expecting this. He was expecting a fierce, military leader—someone who would bust some heads and make some waves. So when he sends his men to ask Jesus if He's really "the one," Jesus replies with words John likely knew well, drawn mostly from Isaiah. It's not about winning a war, John. It's about winning souls. It's about healing minds, hearts, and bodies. It's about proclaiming good news to the poor. This is the Kingdom John was sent to announce—a revolutionary idea then, maybe even more so now.

Where Did You See the Light Today?

How might God be calling you to recognize the Kingdom in unexpected ways?

Whisper Prayer

Jesus, surprise me today with your quiet, healing joy.

Monday of the Third Week of Advent

Matthew 21:23-27

"By what authority are you doing these things? And who gave you this authority?"

Reflection

The chief priests and elders were perhaps like some modern-day authorities we've encountered—very focused on keeping power firmly in their control and making sure everyone knows who's in charge. So it's not surprising that when Jesus came through, clearing out the temple and healing people, their feathers were ruffled. When they challenge him—*Who do you think you are?*—Jesus responds with a question of his own: *Where was John's baptism from?* They can't answer without undermining themselves, so they say nothing. For a moment, their illusion of power dims beneath the brighter light of Christ's authority. To fully prepare for Christ's coming, it's important for us to consider our own understanding—and acceptance—of his true identity as the Son of God.

Where Did You See the Light Today?

What part of your heart still resists giving Christ authority? What might shift if you gave him more?

Whisper-Prayer

Jesus, help me yield to your authority with trust, not fear. You are gentle with power, and you use it to heal.

Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent

Matthew 21:28-32

"Which of these two did the father's will?"

Reflection

This parable, spoken to the chief priests and elders, is both a biting correction and a tender plea. Two sons are asked by their father to work in the vineyard. One says no, but later goes. The other agrees to go, but does not. "Which of these two did the father's will?" Jesus asks. "The first," they reply—and instantly realize they've condemned themselves. Like the first son, the outcasts in their society had once said no to God, but listened to John and repented. But the religious leaders, like the second son, claimed to say "yes" to God but refused to turn their hearts.

Jesus loves even those who seek to silence him. His mercy is wide enough to hold both sons—and us. May we step more fully into the light of obedience and grace.

Where Did You See the Light Today?

Have you ever said no to God, but found your heart drawn back toward him? Where is he calling you to follow through today?

Whisper-Prayer

Lord, give me the grace to mean what I say—and the humility to repent when I fall short.

Wednesday of the Third Week of Advent

Matthew 1:1-17

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Reflection

Men and women, the famous and the forgotten, the flawed and the faithful—this is the family tree of Jesus. In his time, a person's identity was tied directly to their lineage. This list told readers that Jesus was Jewish, descended from Abraham and David, born into the story God had been writing for generations.

Today reminds us that God was working out his plan with meticulous care. There was a steady, quiet progression toward the birth of Christ—at the exact right time in history, with exactly the ancestry God intended. To the one who is outside of time, the path was never unclear. His steady gaze is a quiet light, tracing every branch of our own story.

Where Did You See the Light Today?

Where can you trace the quiet patterns of God's presence in your life—looking back or looking around?

Whisper-Prayer

Lord, even when I feel like a small, nameless part of the story, help me trust that I matter to you.

Thursday of the Third Week of Advent

Matthew 1:18-25

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

Reflection

The Gospels don't record a single word spoken by Joseph. But his actions show why he was chosen to protect Mary and the Christ child. From the beginning, the situation was difficult. By all appearances, Mary had conceived a child that wasn't his. Joseph resolved to end their engagement quietly, to spare her shame.

Then the angel came in a dream with a remarkable message: the child in Mary's womb was from the Holy Spirit. He would save his people from their sins. And when Joseph awoke, he didn't hesitate. He took Mary into his home. Silent, strong, and obedient—Joseph's faith didn't need words.

Where Did You See the Light Today?

Have you ever obeyed without full understanding? How did God meet you in that surrender?

Whisper-Prayer

Saint Joseph, help me trust God's voice, even when it comes in silence or dreams.

Friday of the Third Week of Advent

Luke 1:5-25

Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.

Reflection

Zechariah and Elizabeth were righteous in the eyes of God. They lived out their faith—quietly, faithfully, together. Most likely, they had long accepted their infertility, and continued to serve and trust God anyway. Until.

Until the angel appeared to Zechariah and told him they would bear a son. His name would be John. This long-hoped-for child would grow to be a herald of the Light.

Zechariah questioned it. His doubt surfaced in the face of the miraculous—and God gave him nine months of silence to reflect. But the plan didn't change. A baby was on the way.

Where Did You See the Light Today?

What long-settled place in your life do you need God to reawaken with wonder?

Whisper-Prayer

God of the unexpected, help me believe that it's never too late for you to move.

Saturday of the Third Week of Advent

Luke 1:26-38

And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you!"

Reflection

The choice of Mary to be the mother of the Savior wasn't random—though it may have seemed so at the time. Mary likely appeared to be just a normal young Jewish girl, raised to hear Scripture read, to keep the commandments, to visit the temple, and to pray. But when Gabriel arrives, we are given to understand that she is special—favored by God and chosen for this moment.

"The Lord is with you" isn't a casual greeting. It's a declaration of divine accompaniment—God will strengthen Mary and make her capable of the impossible. Her seemingly ordinary life of faith became a foundation God could build upon. God's light finds a home in humble hearts.

Where Did You See the Light Today?

Where in my own life of faith—however quiet or unremarkable it may seem—is God preparing to shine?

Whisper Prayer:

Lord, help me live a life so anchored in You that when You call me, I am ready. Make me attentive, humble, and full of grace.