

Our Advent Journey with Mary

THE LITANY OF LORETO

Lord have mercy.
Christ have mercy.
Lord have mercy.
Christ hear us.
Christ graciously hear us.
God, the Father of heaven,
* *have mercy on us.*
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,*
God the Holy Spirit,*
Holy Trinity, one God,*
Holy Mary,* *pray for us.*
Holy Mother of God,*
Holy Virgin of virgins,*
Mother of Christ,*
Mother of the Church,*
Mother of divine grace,*
Mother most pure,*
Mother most chaste,*
Mother inviolate,*
Mother undefiled,*
Mother most amiable,*
Mother admirable,*
Mother of good counsel,*
Mother of our Creator,*
Mother of our Savior,*
Mother of mercy,*
Virgin most prudent,*
Virgin most venerable,*
Virgin most renowned,*
Virgin most powerful,*
Virgin most merciful,*
Virgin most faithful,*
Mirror of justice,*
Seat of wisdom,*
Cause of our joy,*
Spiritual vessel,*
Vessel of honor,*
Singular vessel of devotion,*
Mystical rose,*
Tower of David,*
Tower of ivory,*
House of gold,*
Ark of the covenant,*
Gate of heaven,*
Morning star,*
Health of the sick,*
Refuge of sinners,*

Comfort of the afflicted,*
Help of Christians,*
Queen of Angels,*
Queen of Patriarchs,*
Queen of Prophets,*
Queen of Apostles,*
Queen of Martyrs,*
Queen of Confessors,*
Queen of Virgins,*
Queen of all Saints,*
Queen conceived without original sin,*
Queen assumed into heaven,*



Traditional image of Our Lady of Loreto

Queen of the most holy Rosary,*
Queen of families,*
Queen of peace,*
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.
Grant, we beseech thee, O Lord God, that we, your servants, may enjoy perpetual health of mind and body; and by the intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, may be delivered from present sorrow, and obtain eternal joy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

This litany to the Blessed Virgin Mary was composed during the Middle Ages. The place of honor it now holds in the life of the Church is due to its faithful use at the shrine of the Holy House at Loreto. It was approved by Sixtus V in 1587, and all other Marian litanies were suppressed. Its titles and invocations set before us Mary's exalted privileges, her holiness of life, her amiability and power, her motherly spirit and queenly majesty.

Pope Pius IX taught: 'God enriched her so wonderfully from the treasury of His divinity, far beyond all angels and saints with the abundance of all heavenly gifts, that she...should show forth such fullness of innocence and holiness, than which a greater under God is unthinkable and which, beside God, no one can even conceive in thought.' Hence, whatever virtue and holiness is found in angels and saints must be present in Mary in an immeasurably higher degree.

On October 7, 2019, Pope Francis inserted the Memorial of Our Lady of Loreto into the Universal Calendar of the Church. The Memorial of Our Lady of Loreto is celebrated on December 10, two days after the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, and two days before the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In a wonderful way, Our Lady is the perfect companion for our Advent journey.

“In the Church’s liturgy, Advent is a Marian season. It is the season in which Mary made room in her womb for the world’s Redeemer and bore the expectation and hope of humanity. To celebrate Advent means: to become Marian, to enter into that communion with Mary’s Yes which, ever anew, is room for God’s birth, for the fullness of time.” — Pope Benedict XVI

This Advent season, may we follow Mary’s example of humble faith. As Mary bore the Incarnate Word, let us also prepare a place in our hearts to carry Jesus.

ADVENT WREATH TABLE PRAYER

As we make the Sign of the Cross, the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.
R/. Who made heaven and earth.

A song may be sung as someone lights the candle(s). The rose candle is lighted during the Third Week of Advent.

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

R./ Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things, far and nigh
To us the path of knowledge show
And cause us in her ways to go. R./

Opening Prayer

Open our minds and our hearts, O Lord, to hear your word of promise! Send us the Holy Spirit to guide us through these holy days. Quiet our worries and anxieties and help us to wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ who is Lord for ever and ever. R/. Amen.

Scripture Reading (chosen from the daily readings or from below).

The First Week: Isaiah 9:1-6

The Second Week: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

The Third Week: Luke 1:39-45

The Fourth Week: John 1:1-5, 9-14

A reflection may be shared about the Reading.

Concluding Prayer

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, He is the Wisdom that teaches and guides us, He is the Savior of every nation.
Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ’s promise to bring us salvation. May He come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. R/. Amen.

To conclude, we make the Sign of the Cross, saying:

May the Lord bless us,
protect us from all evil,
and bring us everlasting life. R/. Amen.

DAILY READINGS FOR ADVENT

“Your word, O Lord, is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path.”
- Psalm 119:105

FIRST WEEK

Sunday	Luke 21:25-28, 34-36
Monday	Isaiah 2:1-5
Tuesday	Psalm 72
Wednesday	Isaiah 25:6-10
Thursday	Matthew 7:21-27
Friday	Psalm 27
Saturday	Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26

SECOND WEEK

Sunday	Philippians 1:4-11
Monday	Psalm 85
Tuesday	Luke 1:26-38
Wednesday	Zechariah 2:14-17
Thursday	Psalm 145
Friday	Matthew 11:16-19
Saturday	Sirach 48:1-11

THIRD WEEK

Sunday	Zephaniah 3:14-18
Monday	Genesis 49:2, 8-10
Tuesday	Jeremiah 23:5-8
Wednesday	Judges 13:2-7, 24-25
Thursday	Isaiah 7:10-14
Friday	Song of Songs 2:8-14
Saturday	Luke 1:26-38

FOURTH WEEK

Sunday	Micah 5:1-4
Monday	Luke 1:57-66
Tuesday	Luke 1:67-79

For more information about Our Lady of Loreto and the Holy House:

<https://www.pilgrim-info.com/holy-house-loreto/>