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Ben Haupt

# DESCEND TO US, WE PRAY

*daily prayers for advent*

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
Oh, come to us, abide with us,  
Our LORD Emmanuel!

—“O Little Town of Bethlehem,” verse 4

## INTRODUCTION

*Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.*

*Philippians 2:5-7*

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This Advent season, we again marvel at the miracle that Christ descended to us and was “born in the likeness of men.” He did not have to leave his throne above, and yet he did. He did not have to trade his kingly robe for human flesh, yet he did. He did not have to leave his place of honor for a cattle stall, and yet he did. For the love of us and for our salvation, he came down to earth. May these daily prayers serve as small reminders of that amazing descent and prepare us joyfully to celebrate his humble yet holy birth.

# FIRST SUNDAY

## of Advent

*Oh that you would rend the heavens  
and come down.*

*Isaiah 64:1*

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O holy Child of Bethlehem, you once tore open heaven and came down to be born among dark streets ruled by sins and addictions, nightmares and evil empires. And you brought light. The word of prophetic promise which had been held out like a burning candle in a dark cave finally became flesh in you, Lord Jesus. In these Advent prayers, we beg you to come among us also. Our streets are desperate for your light. Descend to us, we pray. AMEN.

## MONDAY, the First Week of Advent

*Restore us, O God; let your face shine,  
that we may be saved!*

*Psalm 80:3*

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O holy Child of Bethlehem, you were conceived by the Holy Spirit in the darkness of Mary's womb. Shine the light of your face on those who are in the womb this day. We pray especially for mothers and fathers whose lives are so troubled by the struggles of their world that the news of pregnancy is darkness rather than light. Enlighten them to the life of their unborn child. Use Christians throughout the land to be bright burning fires of warmth and protection for mothers, fathers and their yet-to-be-born children. Descend to us, we pray. AMEN.

## TUESDAY, the First Week of Advent

*God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our LORD.*

*1 Corinthians 1:9*

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O holy Child of Bethlehem, before you were born, your parents made the long journey to the city of David. At their arrival, there was no house-warming party and no adequate housing. At the height of your own earthly life and popularity, you once said that foxes and birds had better housing than you. Look with kindness on the immigrants in our land. Let your body, the church, be for them a welcome home, an advocate for safe, legal and adequate housing, and a gracious fellowship. Descend to us, we pray. AMEN.

**WEDNESDAY,**  
**the First Week of Advent**

*There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. But now, O LORD, you are our Father.*

*Isaiah 64:7-8*

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O holy Child of Bethlehem, so many of us have turned away from the one true God and replaced you with cheap entertainment. Our friends and family members, our co-workers and neighbors, and even some of our own brothers and sisters in Christ have depended on a buzz or a high or a fling to get them through another day. They are melting in their own sin. Turn your face toward those trapped in addictions, depressions and oppressions of any kind. Descend to us, we pray. AMEN.

# DESCEND TO US, WE PRAY

*daily prayers for advent*

By Ben Haupt

These insightful and heartfelt prayers by theology professor Ben Haupt focus on the Christ Child who comes down to us in Advent with his presence, his power, his promises and his peace. Each prayer serves as a glimpse of the divine significance of our Savior's earthly birth.

This book, along with many other Creative Communications for the Parish products, is available on

**amazon**kindle and **nook**  
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