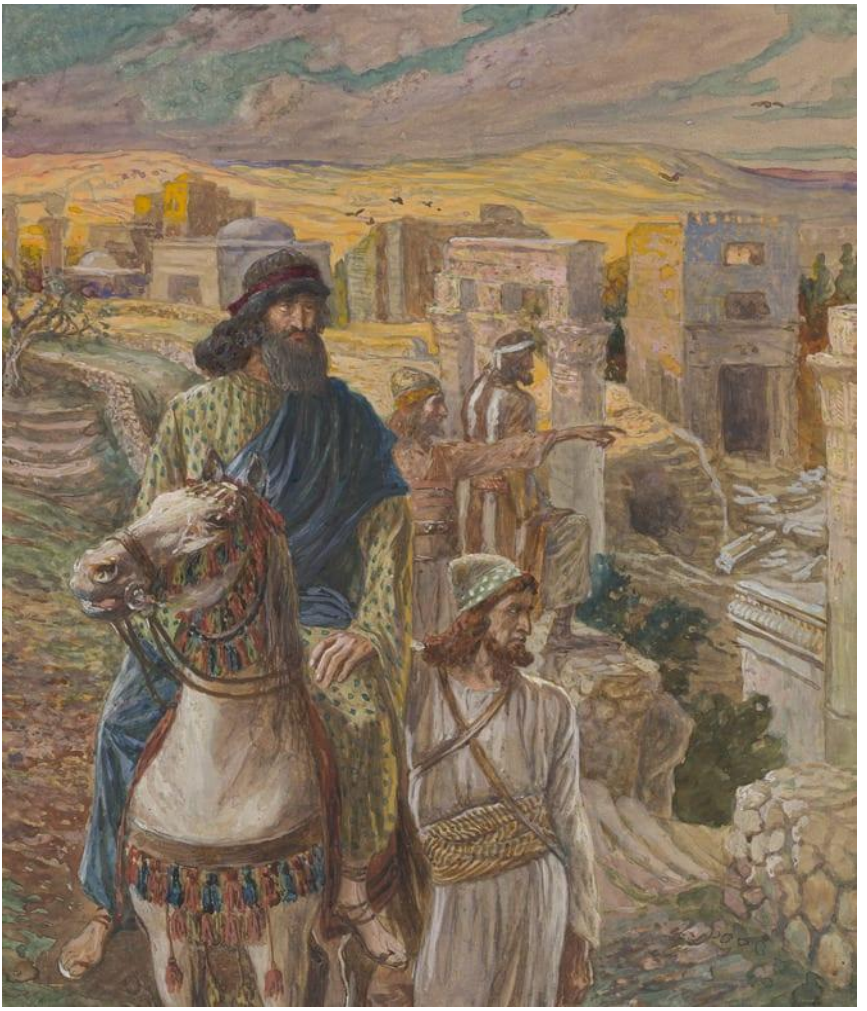


Image credit: *Nehemiah Looks Upon the Ruins of Jerusalem*, The Jewish Museum, New York.

Nehemiah: Rebuilding the Ruins

Advent to Epiphany

Welcome!

In the weeks from Advent to Epiphany, we will read the story of a people seeking renewal and working to rebuild Jerusalem. As we pray and read Scripture together, may Nehemiah's example help us notice where God is at work among us, strengthen our hope, and prepare us to welcome Christ.

How to Use This Booklet

Follow one of the Daily Office Devotional versions in this booklet, using the Scripture readings for each week from the Scripture Reading List at the back. Choose your reading path depending on the time available.

Daily Office Devotional

Short Version — 5-10 minutes
Full Version — 20-30 minutes

Scripture Reading Paths

Quick Read — Read the Nehemiah lesson
Standard — Read the Nehemiah and Gospel lessons
Deeper Dive — Read the Nehemiah, Gospel, and New Testament lesson

Pray through the prayers and read the Bible readings, seeking God's presence, power, and peace. Take your time. Trust that God will honor this time, prayer, and study. Also consider joining other family, friends, or church attenders to use this devotional together.

Contents

1. Welcome and How to Use This Booklet
2. Daily Office Devotional — Short Version
3. Daily Office Devotional — Full Version
4. Scripture Reading List (Weeks 1–12)
5. Additional Resources
6. Notes

DAILY OFFICE DEVOTIONAL

SHORT VERSION

OPENING SCRIPTURE

In the Morning …

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth your praise. PSALM 51:15

In the Evening …

How excellent is your mercy, O God! The children of men shall take refuge under the shadow of your wings. For with you is the well of life, and in your light shall we see light. PSALM 36:7, 9

THE PSALMS

One or more of the following Psalms is read.

Morning: Psalm 5, 19, 51, 67, or 113

Evening: Psalm 4, 31, 91, or 134

SCRIPTURE READINGS

See the Scripture Reading List at the back of this Devotional. Read the lesson(s) for this week.

Quick Read: Read the Nehemiah lesson.

Standard: Read the Nehemiah and Gospel lessons.

Deeper Dive: Read the Nehemiah, New Testament, and Gospel lessons.

After each Lesson: The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

A period of silence may follow.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

You may here offer your own prayers of intercession and thanksgiving. Followed by ...

CLOSING PRAYER

In the Morning ...

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to the beginning of this day: Defend us by your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor run into any danger; and that, guided by your Spirit, we may do what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In the Evening ...

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. Amen.

The order of worship in this devotional has been adapted from the Anglican Church in North America's Book of Common Prayer 2019.

DAILY OFFICE DEVOTIONAL
FULL VERSION

OPENING SCRIPTURE

In the Morning …

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. PHILIPPIANS 1:2

I was glad when they said unto me, "We will go into the house of the LORD." PSALM 122:1

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be always acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. PSALM 19:14

In the Evening …

Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." JOHN 8:12

LORD, I have loved the habitation of your house and the place where your honor dwells. PSALM 26:8

Let my prayer be set forth in your sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice. PSALM 141:2

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Scriptures teach us to acknowledge our many sins and offenses, not concealing them from our heavenly Father, but confessing them with humble and obedient hearts that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy. We ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before Almighty God, but especially when we come together in his presence to give thanks for the great benefits we have received at his hands, to declare his most worthy praise, to hear his holy Word, and to ask, for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things which are necessary for our life and our salvation. Therefore, draw near with me to the throne of heavenly grace, and let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Personal silent confession, kneeling if able, is then followed by …

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our

neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Then God's forgiveness is declared …

Grant to your faithful people, merciful Lord, pardon and peace; that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE INVITATORY

Standing or sitting

O Lord, open our lips; And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.O God, make speed to save us; O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Praise the Lord. The Lord's Name be praised.

PRAYER

In the Morning the following prayer "Venite" from Psalm 95:1-7 is prayed or said.

O come, let us sing unto the LORD; let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and show ourselves glad in him with psalms. For the LORD is a great God and a great King above all gods. In his hand are all the depths of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands prepared the dry land. O come, let us worship and fall down, and kneel before the LORD our Maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Amen.

In the Evening the following prayer "Phos Hilaron" is prayed or said.

O gladsome light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed! Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds. Amen.

THE PSALMS

One or more of the following Psalms is read.

Morning: Psalm 5, 19, 51, 67, or 113
Evening: Psalm 4, 31, 91, or 134

At the end of the Psalms, the following "Gloria Patri" may be said.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

See the Scripture Reading List at the back of this Devotional. Read the lesson(s) for this week.

Quick Read: Read the Nehemiah lesson.
Standard: Read the Nehemiah and Gospel lessons.
Deeper Dive: Read the Nehemiah, New Testament, and Gospel lessons.

After each Lesson: The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

In the Morning, the "Be Joyful" (Jubilate) from Psalm 100 may also be read or prayed.

O be joyful in the LORD, all you lands; serve the LORD with gladness, and come before his presence with a song. Be assured that the LORD, he is God; it is he that has made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and speak good of his Name. For the LORD is gracious, his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endures from generation to generation.

In the Evening, the "Song of Simeon" (Nunc Dimittis) from Luke 2:29-32 may also be read or prayed.

Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all people; To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of your people Israel.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

SUNDAY: FOR RESURRECTION HOPE

Lord God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ triumphed over the powers of death and prepared for us our place in the new Jerusalem: Grant that we, who have this day given thanks for his resurrection, may praise you in that City of which he is the light, and where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

MONDAY: FOR PEACE

O God, the source of all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works: Give to your servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments, and that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

TUESDAY: FOR DEFENSE

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY: FOR GRACE

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to the beginning (or end) of this day: Defend us by your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin nor run into any danger; and that, guided by your Spirit, we may do what is righteous in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY: FOR GUIDANCE

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY: FOR ENDURANCE

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the Cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.

SATURDAY: FOR SABBATH REST

O God, the source of eternal light: Shed forth your unending day upon us who watch for you, that our lips may praise you, our lives may bless you, and our worship on the morrow give you glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR MISSION

One of the following prayers is prayed …

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men, women, and children everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

or this

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of your presence: Send forth upon us the Spirit of love, that in companionship with one another your abounding grace may increase among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

or this

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

You may here offer your own prayers of intercession and thanksgiving. Followed by …

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

CONCLUSION

One of these concluding sentences is said.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

2 CORINTHIANS 13:14

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

ROMANS 15:13

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

The order of worship in this devotional has been adapted from the Anglican Church in North America's Book of Common Prayer 2019.

Scripture Reading List

Five reading opportunities are listed per week to follow the Nehemiah sermon series. Five Gospel readings and five New Testament readings are also provided for each week. A few special lessons for Holy Days are also included.

As you begin each week's readings, take a moment to become still and ask God to guide your attention. Read at a pace that is sustainable for you, noticing what stands out in Nehemiah and how the other readings deepen or illuminate the week's themes. Bring your questions, hopes, and responses into prayer.

Week 1: November 15-21

	Quick	Standard	Deeper Dive	Holy Day
Mon	Neh 1:1-4	Titus 1	Mark 1	
Tue	Neh 1:5-11	Titus 2	Mark 2	
Wed	Neh 2:1-10	Titus 3	Mark 3	
Thu	Neh 2:11-16	Philemon 1	Mark 4	
Fri	Neh 2:17-20	Hebrews 1	Mark 5	

Week 2: November 22-28

	Quick	Standard	Deeper Dive	Holy Day
Mon	Neh 3:1-16	Hebrews 2	Mark 6:1-29	
Tue	Neh 3:17-32	Hebrews 3	Mark 6:30-56	
Wed	Neh 4:1-6	Hebrews 4	Mark 7	
Thu	Neh 4:7-14	Hebrews 5	Mark 8	
Fri	Neh 4:15-23	Hebrews 6	Mark 9:1-29	

Week 3: November 29-December 5

	Quick	Standard	Deeper Dive	Holy Day
Mon	Neh 5:1-5	Hebrews 7	Mark 9:30-50	
Tue	Neh 5:6-8	*Romans 10:8-18*	*Matt 4:18-23*	*Andrew the Apostle*
Wed	Neh 5:9-13	Hebrews 8	Mark 10:1-31	
Thu	Neh 5:14-16	Hebrews 9	Mark 10:32-52	
Fri	Neh 5:17-19	Hebrews 10	Mark 11	

Week 4: December 6-12

	Quick	Standard	Deeper Dive	Holy Day
Mon	Neh 6:1-4	Hebrews 11	Mark 12	
Tue	Neh 6:5-9	Hebrews 12	Mark 13	
Wed	Neh 6:10-11	Hebrews 13	Mark 14:1-31	
Thu	Neh 6:12-15	James 1	Mark 14:32-72	
Fri	Neh 6:16-19	James 2	Mark 15	

Week 5: December 13-19

	Quick	Standard	Deeper Dive	Holy Day
Mon	Neh 7:1-3	James 3	Mark 16	
Tue	Neh 7:4-65	James 4	John 1:1-28	
Wed	Neh 7:66-73	James 5	John 1:29-51	
Thu	Neh 8:1-6	1 Peter 1	John 2	
Fri	Neh 8:7-12	1 Peter 2	John 3	

Week 6: December 20-26

	Quick	Standard	Deeper Dive	Holy Day
Mon	Neh 8:13-15	*Hebrews 10:35-11:1*	*John 20:19-29*	*Thomas the Apostle*
Tue	Neh 8:16-18	1 Peter 3	John 4:1-26	
Wed	Matt 1:1-17	1 Peter 4	John 4:27-54	
Thu	Matt 1:18-21	*Titus 2:11-14*	*John 1:1-18*	*Christmas Eve*
Fri	Matt 1:22-25	*Titus 3:4-7*	*Luke 2:1-20*	*Christmas Day*

Week 7: December 27-January 2

	Quick	Standard	Deeper Dive	Holy Day
Mon	Neh 9:1-8	*Acts 6:8-7:2, 51-60*	*Matt 23:29-39*	*Stephen, Deacon & Martyr*
Tue	Neh 9:9-15	*1 John 1*	*John 21:9-25*	*John, Apostle & Evangelist*
Wed	Neh 9:16-25	*Revelation 21:1-7*	*Matt 2:13-18*	*The Holy Innocents*
Thu	Neh 9:26-31	*Romans 1:1-7*	*Luke 2:15-21*	*The Holy Name of Jesus*
Fri	Neh 9:32-37	1 Peter 5	John 5	

Week 8: January 3-9

	Quick	Standard	Deeper Dive	Holy Day
Mon	Neh 9:38-10:27	2 Peter 1	John 6:1-40	
Tue	Neh 10:28-30	2 Peter 2	John 6:41-71	
Wed	Neh 10:31-33	*Ephesians 3:1-13*	*Matt 2:1-12*	*Epiphany*
Thu	Neh 10:34-36	2 Peter 3	John 7:1-24	
Fri	Neh 10:37-39	1 John 1	John 7:25-53	

Week 9: January 10-16

	Quick	Standard	Deeper Dive	Holy Day
Mon	Neh 11:1-6	1 John 2	John 8:1-29	
Tue	Neh 11:7-14	1 John 3	John 8:30-59	
Wed	Neh 11:15-20	1 John 4	John 9	
Thu	Neh 11:21-24	1 John 5	John 10	
Fri	Neh 11:25-26	2 John	John 11:1-37	

Week 10: January 17-23

	Quick	Standard	Deeper Dive	Holy Day
Mon	Neh 12:1-21	*1 Peter 5:1-11*	*Matt 16:13-19*	*Confession of Peter the Apostle*
Tue	Neh 12:22-26	3 John	John 11:38-57	

Wed	Neh 12:27-37	Jude	John 12:1-19	
Thu	Neh 12:38-43	1 Timothy 1	John 12:20-50	
Fri	Neh 12:44-47	1 Timothy 2	John 13	

Week 11: January 24-30

	Quick	**Standard**	**Deeper Dive**	**Holy Day**
Mon	Neh 13:1-5	*Galatians 1:11-24*	*Matt 10-16-25*	*Conversion of Paul the Apostle*
Tue	Neh 13:6-9	1 Timothy 3	John 14	
Wed	Neh 13:10-14	1 Timothy 4	John 15	
Thu	Neh 13:15-18	1 Timothy 5	John 16	
Fri	Neh 13:19-22	1 Timothy 6	John 17	

Week 12: January 31-February 6

	Quick	**Standard**	**Deeper Dive**	**Holy Day**
Mon	Neh 13:23-31	2 Timothy 1	John 18	
Tue	Rev 21:1-8	*Hebrews 2:14-18*	*Luke 2:22-40*	*Presentation of Jesus*
Wed	Rev 21:9-27	2 Timothy 2	John 19	
Thu	Rev 22:1-11	2 Timothy 3	John 20	
Fri	Rev 22:12-21	2 Timothy 4	John 21	

Additional Resources:

The Biggest Story – Walls and Worship: The Story of Nehemiah podcast

The Biggest Story – Walls and Worship: The Story of Nehemiah video

Bible Project video recap of Ezra and Nehemiah

The Bible Recap Podcast: Nehemiah 1-5

The Bible Recap Podcast: Nehemiah 6-7

The Bible Recap Podcast: Nehemiah 8-10

The Bible Recap Podcast: Nehemiah 11-13

Bible Project: Ezra and Nehemiah Graphic Poster

Notes:



THE RIVER
ANGLICAN CHURCH