



## CHRISTMAS NOVENA – 22 DECEMBER

### **Introduction:**

Dear friends, on this seventh day of the Novena in preparation for Christmas, we ask ourselves: Am I deeply longing for Jesus to come into my life or is my deep-seated longing for someone or something else in life?

### **Response after each Prophecy:**

*(All) Our Lord and King is drawing near, O come, let us adore Him.*

**Leader:** Rejoice, O you daughter of Sion and exult fully, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, the Lord and Master comes, and there shall be a brilliant light in that day, and the mountains shall drop down sweetness, and hills flow with milk and honey, for in that day the Great Prophet will come, and He Himself will renew Jerusalem.

**Leader:** Behold, the God-man of the house of David will come to sit upon the royal throne, and you will see Him and your heart will rejoice.

**Leader:** Behold, the Lord our Protector will come to save us, Israel's holy One, wearing the crown of royalty on His noble brow and He will exercise His rule from sea to shining sea and from the waters of the river to the ends of the earth.

**Leader:** Behold, the Lord and King will appear, and He will not deceive; but if He should delay, wait for Him to come; He will surely come and will not tarry.

**Leader:** The Lord will come down like rain upon the fleece of Gideon; justice will thrive and an abundance of true peace; all the kings of the lands of the earth will adore Him, and every nation will serve Him.

**Leader:** A Child will be born to us, and He will be called God the almighty; He will sit upon the royal throne of David His father, and He will hold sway, the sign of His power on His shoulder.

**Leader:** Bethlehem, city of the Most High God, from you will come forth the King of Israel, and He will proceed forth from His eternity; and He will be greatly praised in the midst of the entire universe; and there will be peace in our land when He will have come.

*(On the Eve of Christmas add :)*



**Leader:** Tomorrow the wickedness of the whole world will be destroyed, and over us will reign the Saviour of the world.

**Scripture:** **Lk 7: 18-23** (*Are you the one who is to come or are we to expect another?*)

**Reflection:** The question of John to Jesus reflects a common human experience; seeking confirmation and reassurance in the face of challenges or unanswered prayers. Jesus answered John, but not with a declaration but a picture of a world in which God's spirit is powerfully at work—the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. This challenges us to look for signs of God's presence and work in our own lives.

**O Advent Antiphons:** *O come, desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all humankind; bid now our sad divisions cease, and be yourself our King of peace. Amen*

**Intercessions:**

**Response:** **Come Lord Jesus; come as the desire of our hearts!**

As we proclaim Your saving power to others; let us not grow weary or lose hold of our salvation.

Lord, help us to set our hearts where we will find true fulfilment and not betrayal.

Strengthen and sustain our faith in the midst of uncertainty and doubt; vindicate the hope which we place in you.

Lord, upon the technological advancement and complexities of human thoughts and desires; let Your coming shed its own light.

Lord God, teach us to use our gifts for others and to fulfil the purpose you have for each of your children.

**Concluding Prayer:**

God Almighty, we thank you for prayers answered, paths guided, provisions met in ways unanticipated. Your faithfulness is a source of comfort and strength, may we be ever grateful for the reassurance that comes from knowing that you are with us every step of the way. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Concluding Hymn:** (Optional)

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