

Blessing & Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Sign of the Cross

Scripture Reading:

First Sunday of Advent (Isaiah 9)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shone. For a child has been born to us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Second Sunday of Advent (Isaiah 11)

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Third Sunday of Advent (Isaiah 35)

They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like the deer and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Isaiah 7)

The Prophet Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! The Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.”

Lighting of the Candle

O God, as light comes from this candle, may the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us, warming our hearts and brightening our way. May Christ our Saviour bring life into the darkness of this world, and to us, as we wait for his birth. Amen.

Closing Prayer:

On the First Sunday of Advent

God of hope and love,
we praise you for sending Jesus, your Son,
to save us from our sins
and to be light in our darkness.
Bless us as we gather in his name,
and bless this wreath as a sign of your unending love.
Keep us watchful in prayer
as we await his return in glory.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

On all Other Sundays of Advent

God of light and hope,
look upon us in love,
and fill us with the Spirit of Jesus
that we may love and serve you in your kingdom.
Protect us during this week
and keep us watchful in prayer
as we await for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
who is the light of the world,
and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sign of the Cross



Blessing of a Christmas Tree

Leader: Glory to God in the highest.
All: And peace to God's people on earth.

Scripture Reading (Luke 2)

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told to them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.

Prayer of Blessing

All glory and praise to you,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
for sending your Son in human flesh.
He became one of us in order to make us your children,
and he died upon the tree of the cross to bring us eternal life.

We praise you for the beauty of this tree
that we have decorated:
may its ever-green branches
remind us of your unending care for all people;
may its lights illumine the darkness of the winter nights;
may its presence bring cheer and hope for all people.

As we gather in the presence of our Son,
we ask you to strengthen your love in our family,
and grant that we may always rejoice
in the gift of salvation Jesus has given us. Amen.

Sign of the Cross

Blessing of a Nativity Scene

Leader: Glory to God in the highest.
All: And peace to God's people on earth.

Scripture Reading (Luke 2)

While they were there, the time came for Mary to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Prayer of Blessing

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
you have sent your Son
as the promised Saviour of the world
so that he might share with us your divine life.
Bless us as we prepare this nativity scene,
and let it be a reminder of the Lord Jesus,
who was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem.

Grant that we may always serve you in faith, as did the angels;
praise you for your saving deeds, as did the shepherds;
and surround you with the warmth of our love,
as did the animals of the stable.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sign of the Cross

