



Advent Prayer Service

Preparation: Begin the Advent season with a prayer service and blessing of the Advent wreath. Select students to be Readers 1-4. Place the wreath on a table in

the center of those gathered together in a circle. Take a moment to calm thoughts and then begin.

Leader: The Advent season is a time to follow the words of John the Baptist, “Stay awake! Be ready!” We do not know when the hour will come for our moment to meet Jesus. It is time for us to prepare ourselves through our words, actions, and prayers. We must be an instrument of his peace. We see the first purple candle lit on the Advent wreath.

Reader 1:

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: “May those who love you prosper! May peace be within your ramparts, prosperity within your towers.” For family and friends I say, “May peace be yours.” For the house of the Lord, our God, I pray, “May blessings be yours.” (Psalm 122:6-9)

Leader: Through the Incarnation, we have the hope of Jesus as our Savior. As a child shall lead us toward heaven, we know that Jesus came willingly to save us and redeem us. He accepted the human form but remained divine. He came as the Messiah just as the prophets had foretold. We see the second purple candle lit on the Advent wreath.

Reader 2:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wonderful deeds. Blessed be his glorious name forever; may all the earth be filled with the Lord’s glory. Amen and amen. (Psalm 72:18-19)

Leader: The Third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday. Our preparation continues, but we also feel some elation or joy that the time is drawing near. At Mass we notice that the vestments of the priest are rose, and that the candle lit on the Advent wreath is rose. Our excitement grows within us!

Reader 3:

Happy are those whose help is Jacob’s God, whose hope is in the Lord, their God, the maker of heaven and earth, the seas and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free; the Lord gives sight to the blind. The Lord raises up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord protects the stranger, sustains the orphan and the widow, but thwarts the way of the wicked. The Lord shall reign forever, your God, Zion, through all generations! Hallelujah! (Psalm 146:5-10)

Leader: Emmanuel is coming! It is Jesus coming to be amongst us, and he is love in its purest form! He is unconditional love. He is coming to heal, teach, lead us, save us, and die for us. Welcome, dear Jesus! The last purple candle is lit on the Advent wreath.

Reader 4:

Shepherd of Israel, listen, guide the flock of Joseph! From your throne upon the cherubim reveal yourself. Stir up your power, come to save us. O Lord of hosts, restore us; let your face shine upon us, that we may be saved. (Psalm 80:1-4)

Leader: Let us all close by sharing the Glory Be, and begin listening for the angels on high heralding the most precious birth!

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