

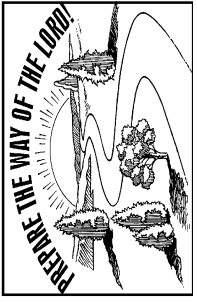
First Week of Advent
The first candle is lighted.

Prayer

Lord God, send your Spirit upon our family during Advent as we prepare for the celebration of Christmas. Help us to listen to your word in Scripture and to see your face in one another.

Scripture

May the Lord make your love for each other and for everyone else grow by leaps and bounds. That's how our love for you has grown. And when our Lord comes with all of his people, I pray that he will make your hearts pure and innocent in the sight of God the Father. Finally, my dear friends, since you belong to the Lord Jesus, we beg and urge you to live as we taught you. Then you will please God. You are already living that way, but try even harder. Remember the instructions we gave you as followers of the Lord Jesus.



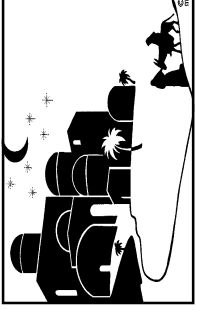
Second Week of Advent
Two Candles are Lighted.

Prayer

Dear God, we know the real work of Advent is yours. Help us to receive every good thing from your hand.

Scripture

Whenever I mention you in my prayers, it makes me happy. This is because you have taken part with me in spreading the good news from the first day you heard about it. God is the one who began this good work in you, and I am certain that he won't stop before it is complete on the day that Christ Jesus returns. God himself knows how much I want to see you. He knows that I care for you in the same way that Christ Jesus does. I pray that your love will keep on growing and that you will fully know and understand how to make the right choices. Then you will still be pure and innocent when Christ returns. And until that day, Jesus Christ will keep you busy doing good deeds that bring glory and praise to God.



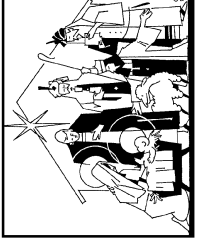
Third Week of Advent
Three candles are lighted.

Prayer

God, may we remember throughout Advent that we don't have to settle for false prophets or phony kings. Help us to put our trust in you all the days of our lives.

Scripture

Everyone became excited and wondered, "Could John be the Messiah?" John said, "I am just baptizing with water. But someone more powerful is going to come, and I am not good enough even to untie his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His threshing fork is in his hand, and he is ready to separate the wheat from the husks. He will store the wheat in his barn and burn the husks in a fire that never goes out." In many different ways John preached the good news to the people. John the Baptist gave the people simple advice: to live according to God's law, you have to treat other people honestly. And you have to tell the truth about who you are. In a simple way, we can all be honest and follow Jesus, just like John.



Fourth Week of Advent
The four candles are lighted.

Prayer

Lord God, your love for us is endless, your compassion and care know no bounds. Help us to welcome you into our hearts, so that we may live in that love and be at peace always.

Scripture

And [the angel] came to [Mary] and said, "Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David."

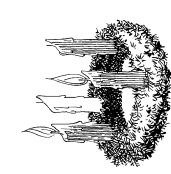
ADVENT WREATH

"Customarily the Advent Wreath is constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which are inserted four candles. According to tradition, three of the candles are violet and the fourth is rose. However, four violet or white candles may also be used. The rose candle is lit the third Sunday of Advent, for this color anticipates and symbolizes the Christmas joy announced in the first word of the



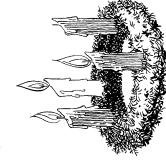
Entrance Antiphon: "Rejoice" (Latin, Gaude). For this reason the Third Sunday is also called Gaude Sunday, and rose color vestments are permitted.

The Advent Wreath represents the long time when people lived in spiritual darkness, waiting for the coming of the Messiah, the light of the world. Each year in Advent people wait once again in darkness for the coming of the Lord, His historical coming in the mystery of Bethlehem, His final coming at the end of time, and His special coming in every moment of grace.

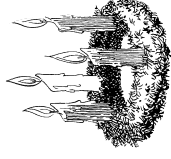


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ADVENT