

Lighting of the Advent Candles (Epistle Year C)

This set of readings for the lighting of the Advent candles is based on the Epistle lessons of the Revised Common Lectionary in Year C.

At each successive lighting of the Advent candles, all texts from the preceding lightings are read in addition to the text introduced that day.

*On the First Sunday of Advent,
and at successive lightings:*

We light this candle [these candles]
as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
Christ is the reflection of God's glory,
the very imprint of God's own being. (Hebrews 1)

Night and day we pray that God will strengthen us
in holiness and love. (1 Thessalonians 3)

*And on the Second Sunday of Advent,
and at successive lightings:*

God, who began a good work in us,
will bring it to completion on the day of Jesus Christ.
(Philippians 1)

*And on the Third Sunday of Advent,
and at successive lightings:*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice!
The Lord is near. (Philippians 4)

*And on the Fourth Sunday of Advent,
and at successive lightings:*

It is the will of God that we be made holy
through the gift of Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 10)

*And on the Eve of Christmas,
or on Christmas Day:*

Now the grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation to all! (Titus 2)

On each occasion the lighting of the candles is concluded with:

Thanks be to God
for this good news of great joy!
(1 Thessalonians 3, Luke 2)