

Lighting of the Advent Candles (General)

This set of readings for the lighting of the Advent candles is based on texts from the Revised Common Lectionary, and is offered for general use.

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 following Sundays:

On this day we bear witness to the light of Christ
with all the faithful of every time and place:

With Isaiah and Jeremiah, prophets of Israel,
we await the promised salvation of the Lord,
and look for the coming of the one
who will bring justice and righteousness to the earth.

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

With John the Baptist, calling from the wilderness,
we cry: "Prepare the way of the Lord!
Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

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

With Mary, the mother of Jesus,
we magnify the Lord, rejoicing in God our Savior,
for the Mighty One has done great things for us,
and holy is God's name.

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

With the writers of the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John,
we tell the good news of Jesus Christ, the child of Bethlehem,
who came to save us, and is coming again to rule in glory.

And on the eve of Christmas, or on Christmas Day:

With choirs of angels, and with all the heavenly host,
we sing: "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth, peace and goodwill to all."

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

The Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory. Alleluia!