

Lighting of the Advent Candles (Gospel Year A)

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

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:

We light this candle [these candles] as a sign of the coming light of Christ,
who came to baptize us with the Holy Spirit and with fire, *Matt. 3*
and who is coming again to reign in glory.

Keep awake, therefore, and be ready, *Matt. 24*
for the Lord is coming at an unexpected hour.

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

Bear fruit worthy of repentance, *Matt. 3*
for the kingdom of heaven has come near.

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

Go and tell what you have seen and heard: *Matt. 11*
the poor receive good news, and the dead are raised to new life.

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

Look! The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, *Matt. 1*
and they shall name him Emmanuel, God with us.

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

Fear not, for there is good news of great joy for all people: *Luke 2*
to us is born this day in Bethlehem a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

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

Prepare the way of the Lord.