

Lighting of the Advent Candles (Gospel Year B)

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

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 is called the Son of the Most High, *Luke 1*
and of whose kingdom there will be no end.

About the hour of Christ's coming no one knows; *Mark 13*
therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the time will come.

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

Hear the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: *Mark 1*
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

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

With John the Baptist we testify to Christ the light, *John 1*
so that all might believe through him.

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

With Mary, we pray: Let it be with us according to your word. *Luke 1*
For nothing will be impossible with God.

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

Now 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:

Heaven and earth will pass away, *Mark 13*
but the Word of God endures forever.