

## Lighting of the Advent Candles (Magnificat)

*This set of readings for the lighting of the Advent candles is based on the Magnificat, or Song of Mary, in Luke 1:46-55; this setting of the text is from the Book of Common Worship (575).*

*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:*

Leader: We light this candle [these candles] as a sign of the coming light of Christ, joining our voices with the joyful song of his mother Mary.

Leader: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;

**People: my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

Leader: For you, O Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.

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

Leader: You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.

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

Leader: You have shown strength with your arm,  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.

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

Leader: You have filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

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

Leader: You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,  
the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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

Leader: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;

**People: my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**