

Optional readings which may be used in place of the Short Lesson:
(Out of the three readings listed for each, only one is needed.)

Week of 1 Advent

Sunday	Amos 1:1-5,13-2:8; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; Luke 21:5-19
Monday	Amos 2:6-16; 2 Pet. 1:1-11; Matt. 21:1-11
Tuesday	Amos 3:1-11; 2 Pet. 1:12-21; Matt. 21:12-22
Wednesday	Amos 3:12-4:5; 2 Pet. 3:1-10; Matt. 21:23-32
Thursday	Amos 4:6-13; 2 Pet. 3:11-18; Matt. 21:33-46
Friday	Amos 5:1-17; Jude 1-16; Matt. 22:1-14
Saturday	Amos 5:18-27; Jude 17-25; Matt. 22:15-22

Week of 2 Advent

Sunday	Amos 6:1-14; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; Luke 1:57-68
Monday	Amos 7:1-9; Rev. 1:1-8; Matt. 22:23-33
Tuesday	Amos 7:10-17, 24-25; Rev. 1:9-16; Matt. 22:34-46
Wednesday	Amos 8:1-14; Rev. 1:17-2:7; Matt. 23:1-12
Thursday	Amos 9:1-10; Rev. 2:8-17; Matt. 23:13-26
Friday	Haggai 1:1-15; Rev. 2:18-29; Matt. 23:27-39
Saturday	Haggai 2:1-19; Rev. 3:1-6; Matt. 24:1-14

Week of 3 Advent

Sunday	Amos 9:11-15; 2 Thess. 2:1-3,13-17; John 5:30-47
Monday	Zech. 1:7-17; Rev. 3:7-13; Matt. 24:15-31
Tuesday	Zech. 2:1-13; Rev. 3:14-22; Matt. 24:32-44
Wednesday	Zech. 3:1-10; Rev. 4:1-8; Matt. 24:45-51
Thursday	Zech. 4:1-14; Rev. 4:9-5:5; Matt. 25:1-13
Friday	Zech. 7:8-8:8; Rev. 5:6-14; Matt. 25:14-30
Saturday	Zech. 8:9-17; Rev. 6:1-17; Matt. 25:31-46

Week of 4 Advent

Sunday	Gen 3:18-15; Rev. 12:1-10; John 3:16-21
Monday	Zeph. 3:14-20; Titus 1:1-16; Luke 1:1-25
Tuesday	1 Samuel 2:1b-10; Titus 2:1-10; Luke 1:26-38
Wednesday	2 Samuel 7:1-17; Titus 2:11-3:8a; Luke 1:39-48a(48b-56)
Thursday	2 Samuel 7:18-29; Gal. 3:1-14; Luke 1:57-66
Friday	Baruch 4:21-29; Gal. 3:15-22; Luke 1:67-80 or Matt. 1:1-17
Christmas Eve:	Isa. 59:15b-21; Phil. 2:5-11

SIMPLE ADVENT DEVOTIONS FOR USE WITH AN ADVENT WREATH AT HOME



This is an optional form of devotion for use by individuals or families around an Advent wreath. It is based on An Order of Worship for the Evening from *The Book of Common Prayer* on page 109. It may be used any time after it has begun to get dark outside. It is especially appropriate for use just before the evening meal. Any person may officiate. The Short Lesson may be either the one printed in the service, or you may use one of the lessons from the Daily Office Lectionary printed on the back page of this leaflet.

An Order of Worship for the Evening

The room where the service takes place is dark, or partially so, when the service is to begin.

All stand, and the Officiant greets the people with these words

Light and Peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

One of the following, or some other Short Lesson of Scripture appropriate to the occasion or season, may then be read.

See the back page of this leaflet for other possible readings.

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lamp-stand where it gives light for everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellow men, so that they may see the deed you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven." *Matthew 5:14-16*

It is not ourselves that we proclaim; we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your servants, for Jesus' sake. For the same God who said, "Out of darkness let light shine," has caused his light to shine within us, to give the light of revelation--the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 *Corinthians 4:5-6*

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. *Psalms 139:10-11*

The Officiant then says the following Prayer for Light, first saying

Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Advent wreath is now lighted. One candle is lit for each Sunday of Advent that has arrived. Other candles and lamps may be lit as convenient.

The following hymn, or a metrical version of it, or some other hymn, is then sung or said by all

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*

O gracious light,
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,
and our eyes behold the vesper light,
we sing your praised, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,
O Son of God, O Giver of Life,
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

The service concludes with the Lord's Prayer and then a grace or blessing. An appropriate Advent blessing is printed here.

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon us and scatter the darkness from before our path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us, and remain with us always. *Amen.*