



ADVENT WREATH SERVICE

For Personal Use

Traditionally, Advent wreaths are constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which four candles are inserted, representing the four weeks of Advent. Ideally, three candles are purple and one is rose, or all purple can be used but white candles can also be used. Vigil candles in their glass containers work well.

The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, signifying rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of his second coming to judge the living and the dead.

BLESSING OF WREATH

To be prayed before using of the wreath the first time:

**Lord God,
your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior,
who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin.**

**Pour forth your blessings upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath;
may their light reflect the splendor of Christ,
who is Lord, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Note on the Advent Wreath Prayers:

Each Sunday and each day for the following week, the appropriate number of candles are lighted.

A family may light the candles and say the week's prayer before dinner, adding the Meal Blessing (such as "Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts which we are about to receive through Christ our Lord. Amen")

Or you may light the candles during your prayer time each day and use whatever Advent devotional prayers and reflections you have chosen to use.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT.

Light the first candle.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Lord,

Let your glory dawn to take away our darkness.

May we be revealed as the children of light

at the coming of your Son, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Light the first and the second candle.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Father,

help us to prepare the way of Jesus,

the Light of the world.

May we who believe he will come again always serve you,

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Light the first, second and third candle (the Rose Candle)

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again

Lord,

we ask you to enlighten the darkness of our minds

so that, filled with your brightness,

we may rejoice in your coming, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Light all four candles

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again

God of all Gracious Gifts,

As now the Feast of Christmas draws near,

Guide our loving efforts, that we might give gifts of ourselves

that express your love, through Christ our Lord. Amen.