

Blessing of an Advent Wreath

When the family is gathered on the First Sunday of Advent, the following may be used to bless the Advent Wreath.

All make the Sign of the Cross as the leader begins:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All respond:

Who made heaven and earth.

The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the blessing:

In the short days and the long nights of Advent, we realize how we are always waiting for deliverance, always needing salvation by our God. Around this wreath, we shall remember God's promise.

Then the Scripture is read by another member of the family:

Listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing.

The Word of the Lord.

All respond:

Thanks be to God.

Those present can be invited to offer their prayers for those in need and for the Advent season. Then, all join in praying the Lord's Prayer. The leader then says:

Let us now pray for God's blessing upon us and upon this wreath.

**Lord our God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
he is the Savior of every nation.**

**Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.
May he come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R./ Amen.**

The leader, or another member of the family, now lights the first candle. Then, the leader says:

Let us bless the Lord.

All respond, making the Sign of the Cross:

Thanks be to God.

The blessing can conclude with a verse from “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”:

O come, desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of humankind;
Bid ev’ry sad division cease
And be thyself our Prince of peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.



Each day in Advent, perhaps at the evening meal, the candles are lit: one candle the first week, two the second, and so forth. The following may be used for the daily lighting at the evening meal:

Advent candles may be lit as the leader says:

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation:
in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you in this food and in our sharing.
Blessed are you as we wait in joyful hope
for coming of our savior, Jesus Christ.

Then the leader prays:

God, the Father of mercies,
you willed your Son to take flesh,
in order to give life back to us.
Bless these your gifts
with which we are about to nourish our bodies,
so that, receiving new strength,
we may wait in watchfulness
for the glorious coming of Christ,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
R./ Amen.