

A wreath such as the one shown on the cover page is placed on the table where the family or household gathers for the evening meal. The candle(s) remain unlit until the appropriate time near the beginning of the service. The family or household gathers around the table, either standing or seated.

Advent I: Week of the Sunday on or between 5 - 12 November

Presider: O Wisdom, you came forth from the mouth of the Holy One.
People: **Mighty and sweet your ordering of life: teach us prudence!**

Advent II: Week of the Sunday on or between 13 - 19 November

Presider: O Adonai and Israel's God, your flame brought Moses to his knees.
People: **Your mountain brought forth Law and Life: Come and redeem us!**

Advent III: Week of the Sunday on or between 20 - 26 November

Presider: O Ruler of the nations, Desire and longing for wholeness, come!
People: **We are your creatures, you formed us of earth: Save your people!**

Advent IV: Week of the Sunday on or between November 7 - December 3

Presider: O Root of Jesse tarry not: over all your people your banner waves.
People: **All rulers and nations worship you: Heal the nations!**

Advent V: Week of the Sunday on or between 4 - 10 December

Presider: O Key of David, sign of might; you tear down bars that hold us fast.
People: **Deliver the captives and free us from death: Burst our prison!**

Advent VI: Week of the Sunday on or between 11 - 17 December

Presider: O Morning Star of Righteousness, your light shines brightly in the night.
People: **Dispel our shadows and bring us light: Illumine our darkness.**

Advent VII: Week of the Sunday on or between 18 - 24 December

Presider: O God in our midst, Emmanuel, in you our salvation comes to earth.
People: **Come rule our lives and make us whole: Come and save us!**

The youngest member of the family who is able or the newest person in the household then lights the candle or candles appropriate to the week(s) of the season.. When this is accomplished all recite the 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 praises, 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 Presider then says one of the following collects according to the appropriate week of the season.

Advent I

Eternal God, your Word of wisdom goes forth and does not return empty: Grant us such knowledge and love of you that we may perceive your presence in all creation and every creature; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Advent II

O Lord our God, you gave your law that righteousness might abound: Put it into our hearts to love justice for others as much as we desire it for ourselves, that, as we know you to be our judge, so we may welcome your reign as it is manifested through Jesus Christ our savior; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be dominion and praise for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Advent III

Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Advent IV

Almighty God, you brought forth a royal branch from the ancient stock of Jesse's line: Grant that we who have been grafted into this heritage may bear fruit worthy of Jesus Christ; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

Advent V

Gracious God, your Son Jesus Christ opened wide gate of heaven, making plain the way that leads to eternal joy: Grant that we who have been buried with Christ in baptism and raised to new life may strive courageously for the freedom and peace of the world; through the same your Son, Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and dominion for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Advent VI

Lord Jesus Christ, in your resurrection you appeared as the Morning Star that knows no setting: Dawn upon the darkness of the human heart so that the deathly orders of this world may be overcome and your whole creation made new; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Advent VII

Eternal God, you do not abandon us in exile but hear our plea for returning and rest: Visit us we pray with your presence and raise us to greet with hope and joy the promised day of salvation; through Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns now and for ever. *Amen.*

The service may conclude with a table grace followed by the evening meal or with the following doxology. If a table grace is used, then this doxology may be reserved until the end of the meal.

Presider: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



An Evening Service of Light for Homes

during

The Seven-Week Season of Advent



A Note on this Advent Wreath

A circular tray, silver in this case, is placed in the center of a home or household dining table. On it is laid a 16-inch in diameter wreath. Six blue ceramic tea light holders are arranged evenly around the wreath. Each holder is three inches in diameter and one inch high with a socket for the tea candle. In the center a white ceramic holder is placed on an appropriate riser (here an inverted cut-glass bowl whose base is also three inches in diameter). Candles are lighted sequentially in clockwise fashion during successive weeks of Advent until, during Advent VII, the central Christ candle is also lighted. The tea light candles are replaced as necessary during the season.