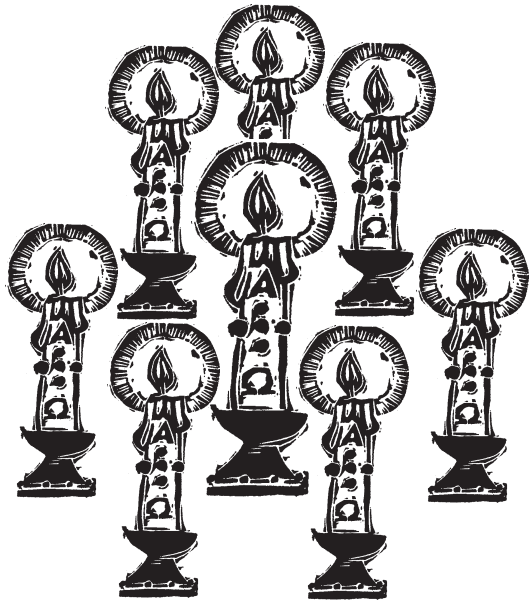


Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord



This service follows An Order of Worship for the Evening found on page 109 of the Book of Common Prayer. This booklet was created by The Rev. Canon Frank and Victoria Logue.

With the exception of the Advent III Collect, the collects are © William H. Petersen, 2008. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission of the author.



A nightly service for a seven-week

Season of Advent



The family gathers by the wreath or candelabra (which is not yet lit).

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Then the leader prays using the appropriate collect for the week.

The candle or candles are lit as the following is said by all together

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 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.

SCRIPTURE READING

(Suggested passages for the day are listed in this booklet)

After the reading

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you

All: **And also with you**

All share the peace with one another

A Seven Week Advent?

This booklet is based on expanding a four-week Advent to seven weeks. This move is a return to an earlier tradition in which all liturgical churches marked a seven week season of preparation for Christmas, matching the seven week season of Lent leading up to Easter. Advent remains a seven week season for the Orthodox Church (Russian and Greek Orthodox, etc.) to this day in an unbroken tradition. The goal is to reclaim the counter-cultural nature of Advent before the Christmas shopping season gets underway. As with Lent, one should select disciplines (such as this nightly service) for the season.

It is appropriate to prayerfully consider how one's preparation for Christmas could reflect the Christian ideal of preparing room in one's heart for Christ to come at Christmas, even as we prepare ourselves for his second coming. How might this make your family's time leading up to Christmas different from the holiday shopping rush? How might the money you spend in this season better reflect your faith? What could you stop doing to mark this season (as some do in Lent)? What could you add to your day to make the season more meaningful?



Concerning the Service

Light a single candle on the first night and all of the first week. During the second week, an additional candle is lit, adding an additional candle each week. A larger candle, representing the light of Christ coming into the world is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Families may divide the responsibilities for leading the service, lighting the candles, and reading scripture so that everyone may have a turn as they are able. An individual will want to omit the portions of the brief service which call for a response, while following the outline for the remainder of the service.

For those who prefer a more simple service, reading the nightly portion of scripture and praying the Lord's Prayer is recommended.

PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you

All: **And also with you**

Leader: Let us pray

All pray The Lord's Prayer

Leader: The Lord bless us and keep us. **Amen.**

The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us. **Amen.**

The Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace. **Amen.**

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Put out the candle or candles

Collects for the Seven Week Season

Prayer for the first week of Advent

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.**

Prayer for the second week of Advent

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.**

Prayer for the third week of Advent

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.**

Prayer for the fourth week of Advent

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.**

Prayer for the fifth week of Advent

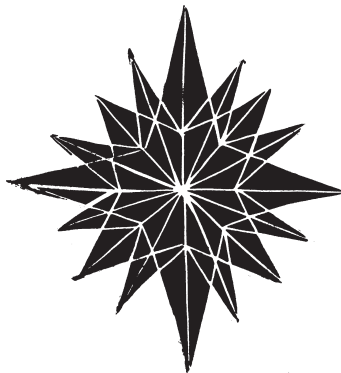
Gracious God, your Son Jesus Christ opened wide gate of heaven, making plain the way that leads to eternal joy: Grant that we who have been buried with Christ in baptism and raised to new life may strive courageously for the freedom and peace of the world; through the same your Son, Jesus Christ, to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

Prayer for the sixth week of Advent

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.**

Prayer for the seventh week of Advent

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.**



Scripture Readings

First Week

Sunday—Matthew 20:1-16
Monday—Luke 14:12-14
Tuesday—Matthew 19:23-26
Wednesday—Psalm 82
Thursday—Matthew 16:1-4
Friday—Joel 2:28-32
Saturday—James 2:8-9

Third Week

Sunday—I Peter 3:13-15
Monday—I Peter 1:3-5
Tuesday—Psalm 126
Wednesday—Ephesians 1:3-6
Thursday—Ephesians 1:15-23
Friday—Zechariah 14:7-9
Saturday—Philippians 2:1-11

Fifth Week

Sunday—Isaiah 40:1-5
Monday—Revelation 1:7-8
Tuesday—Matthew 22:41-45
Wednesday—Hosea 11:3-4
Thursday—Psalm 130
Friday—Micah 6:6-8
Saturday—Jeremiah 14:8-9

Seventh Week

Sunday—John 3:16-21
Monday—Luke 1:1-25
Tuesday—Luke 1:26-38
Wednesday—Luke 1:39-56
Thursday—Luke 1:57-66
Friday—Luke 1:67-80
Dec. 24—Matthew 1:18-25
Dec. 25—John 1:1-5

Second Week

Sunday—Philippians 3:13-17
Monday—Revelation 20:11-15
Tuesday—Revelation 21:1-6
Wednesday—James 3:13-18
Thursday—Matthew 18:1-6
Friday—James 5:7-9
Saturday—Matthew 18:21-22

Fourth Week

Sunday—Matthew 25:1-13
Monday—Isaiah 1:16-18
Tuesday—Isaiah 60:1-3
Wednesday—Psalm 43:3-5
Thursday—Isaiah 58:6-9
Friday—1 John 2:8-11
Saturday—1 John 3:1-2

Sixth Week

Sunday—Isaiah 9:6-7
Monday—Isaiah 7:10-14
Tuesday—Isaiah 11:1-6
Wednesday—Isaiah 40:10-11
Thursday—Isaiah 52:7
Friday—Jeremiah 33:14-16
Saturday—Malachi 3:1-2

Note:

Not all of the seventh week's readings are each year. On the 24th, skip to the reading shown for that day.