

# ADVENT EVENING PRAYERS



*In a season of short days and longer nights, lighting candles is a practical and spiritual practice. This simple form of evening worship can be used at home before the evening meal or another time, during the lighting of an Advent wreath or four different candles. The entire form will take no more than five minutes, and its beauty is in the simplicity and repetition for people of all ages.*

## OPENING ANTIPHON

*A leader begins by saying the antiphon of the week, or:  
Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*All respond:  
Thanks be to God.*

ANTIPHON OF THE WEEK	
<p>ADVENT 1: "Be Alert at All Times" <i>December 1 - 7</i></p> <p>Stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.</p>	<p>ADVENT 3: "Rejoice with all Your Heart" <i>December 15 - 21</i></p> <p>Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid.</p>
<p>ADVENT 2: "Prepare the Way" <i>December 8 - 14</i></p> <p>Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.</p>	<p>ADVENT 4: "Blessed is One who Believes" <i>December 22 - 24 at sundown</i></p> <p>My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.</p>

## SCRIPTURE

*A reader reads the following, or another appropriate passage of Holy Scripture:*

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.  
—Psalm 139:10-11

## PRAYER

*All pray together:*

God of all the ages, rouse us from sleep, and form us into a watchful people, so that, at the advent of your Son, we may be prepared, bearing witness to your light, and eager to receive you. We ask this through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*The Advent wreath is now lighted, lighting one blue/purple candle during the first week, two candles during the second week, and so on. The pink candle is lighted on the third week. If you don't have an Advent wreath, choose four other candles and light them in the same way.*

## HYMN

*Conclude by saying or singing the evening hymn, known as the Phos hilaron, one of the oldest Christian hymns, first recorded in Greek in the 3rd century.*

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.

*Amen.*

## MEALTIME BLESSING

*If dinner follows immediately, say together the mealtime blessing for Advent:*

Holy God, we give you thanks for this meal, and for the One who is, and is to come among us. Make us steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. We pray this in the name of your son Jesus, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

