



Unwrapping the

Gifts

A Brief Advent Devotion for the Family Table

The Advent wreath is lighted, adding the lighting of one candle for each week in Advent. If a rose candle is used, it is lit at the beginning of the third week.

Hymn

Week 1

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel
Shall come to thee,
O Israel!

Week 2

O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

Week 3

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

Week 4 (Sunday only)

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. *Refrain*

Week 4

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*
LSB 357:4-6,1

Prophecy

Family members can take turns reading the prophecy for each day.

Nov. 29 – “Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.” (Ps. 25:4)

Nov. 30 – “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” (Gen. 3:15).

Dec. 1 – “The scepter shall not depart from Judah” (Gen. 49:10).

Dec. 2 – “I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers” (Deut. 18:18).

Dec. 4 – “He shall build a house for my name” (2 Sam. 7:13).

Dec. 5 – “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given” (Is. 9:6).

Dec. 6 – “And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Is. 9:6).

Dec. 7 – Say to the daughter of Zion, “Behold, your salvation comes” (Is. 62:11).

Dec. 8 – “Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end” (Is. 9:7).

Dec. 9 – “There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse” (Is. 11:1).

Dec. 10 – “The wolf shall dwell with the lamb...and a little child shall lead them” (Is. 11:6).

Dec. 11 – “The LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you” (Is. 60:2).

Dec. 12 – “Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down” (Is 64:1).

Dec. 13 – “[Rejoice,] O heavens, and exult, O earth... for the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.” (Is 49:13).

Dec. 14 – “Behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch” (Jer. 23:5).

Dec. 15 – “And this is the name by which he will be called: The LORD is our righteousness” (Jer. 23:6).

Dec. 16 – “[His] coming forth is from of old, from ancient days” (Micah 5:2).

The O Antiphons of Advent (See LSB 357)

Dec. 17 – “I came forth from the mouth of the Most High and covered the earth.” (Ecclesiasticus 24:3).

Dec. 18 – “The LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king; he will save us.” (Is. 33:22).

Dec. 19 – “In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.” (Is 11:10).

Dec. 20 – “I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.” (Is. 22:22).

Dec. 21 – “I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts.” (Hag. 2:7).

Dec. 22 – “I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts.” (Hag. 2:7).

Dec. 23 – “For you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings.” (Malachi 4:2).

Dec. 24 – “When all was still and it was midnight, Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne” (Wis. 18:14,15). (See Introit for Christmas Midnight.)

Grace

All pray together:

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest
And let these gifts to us be blessed. Amen.**

or

Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Your gifts which we receive from Your bountiful goodness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The advent candles may be extinguished after these prayers or after the meal.

At the conclusion of the meal, the family may return thanks:

O give thanks to the Lord for He is good
And His mercy endures forever.

or

We thank you, Lord God, heavenly Father, for all Your benefits; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.