

## **CHRISTMAS WREATH**



## **CEREMONIES**



The following prayers may be said before Sunday Divine Liturgy during the entrance procession, which usually is “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”. The Song, “The Advent Wreath”, may also be sung with the appropriate weekly verse immediately prior to lighting of the candle. If the song, “The Advent Wreath”, is used, then the candle for Christmas (the white candle) is lit during the entrance procession. If it is not used, it is customary for the fifth candle (the white candle in the center) to be lit at any appropriate time between immediately prior to the entrance processional to immediately following the Gospel. This also may be prayed at home each evening of the week before the evening meal or a time when the family is gathered together.

### **First Week of Advent: read Mark 13:33-37**

13:33. Take ye heed, watch and pray. For ye know not when the time is.

13:34. Even as a man who, going into a far country, left his house and gave authority to his servants over every work and commanded the porter to watch.

13:35. Watch ye therefore (for you know not when the lord of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cock crowing, or in the morning):

13:36. Lest coming on a sudden, he find you sleeping.

13:37. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch.

Leader: God, the Father of Light, bless this Advent candle. Hurry and send your spirit to us so that, noticed or unnoticed, we may give warmth and light to each person we meet this holy season.

All: AMEN.

(Light the first purple or blue candle)

### **Second Week of Advent: read Mark 1:1-8**

1:1. The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

1:2. As it is written in Isaias the prophet: Behold I send my angel before thy face, who shall prepare the way before thee.

1:3. A voice of one crying in the desert: Prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight his paths.

1:4. John was in the desert, baptizing and preaching the baptism of penance, unto remission of sins.

1:5. And there went out to him all the country of Judea and all they of Jerusalem and were baptized by him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.

1:6. And John was clothed camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins: and he ate locusts and wild honey.

1:7. And he preached, saying: There cometh after me one mightier than I, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and loose.

1:8. I have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

Leader: God, Father of Light, bless this Advent candle. As we prepare for the coming of Your Son, let us reflect your life in all that we say and do. Give us the strength to change our ways, rid ourselves of angry thoughts, bitter words, and selfishness, and anything that distracts us from Your light in us. O Jesus, our hearts are open.

All: AMEN.

(The first and second purple or blue candles are lighted)

### **Third Sunday of Advent: read John 1: 6-8, 19-28**

1:6. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

1:7. This man came for a witness, to give testimony of the light, that all men might believe through him.

1:8. He was not the light, but was to give testimony of the light.

1:19. And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent from Jerusalem priests and Levites to him, to ask him: Who art thou?

1:20. And he confessed and did not deny: and he confessed: I am not the Christ.

1:21. And they asked him: What then? Art thou Elias? And he said: I am not. Art thou the prophet? And he answered: No.

1:22. They said therefore unto him: Who art thou, that we may give an answer to them that sent us? What sayest thou of thyself?

1:23. He said: I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Isaias.

1:24. And they that were sent were of the Pharisees.

1:25. And they asked him and said to him: Why then dost thou baptize, if thou be not Christ, nor Elias, nor the prophet?

1:26. John answered them, saying: I baptize with water: but there hath stood one in the midst of you, whom you know not.

1:27. The same is he that shall come after me, who is preferred before me: the latchet of whose shoe I am not worthy to loose.

1:28. These things were done in Bethania, beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Leader: God, the Father of Light, bless this Advent candle. This is a time for caring and sharing, a time for smiling and singing, a time for rejoicing in life itself! Let us open our hearts fully to others. Let our faces radiate the joy of Your coming so that everyone we meet will know of You and the gift of life you bring. Jesus, our Lord we rejoice in Your coming.

All: AMEN.

(Light two purple and the rose or three blue candles)

**Fourth Sunday of Advent: read Luke 1:26-38**

1:26. And in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee, called Nazareth,

1:27. To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David: and the virgin's name was Mary.

1:28. And the angel being come in, said unto her: Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

1:29. Who having heard, was troubled at his saying and thought with herself what manner of salutation this should be.

1:30. And the angel said to her: Fear not, Mary, for thou hast found grace with God.

1:31. Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb and shalt bring forth a son: and thou shalt call his name Jesus.

1:32. He shall be great and shall be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of David his father: and he shall reign in the house of Jacob for ever.

1:33. And of his kingdom there shall be no end.

1:34. And Mary said to the angel: How shall this be done, because I know not man?

1:35. And the angel answering, said to her: The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee. And therefore also the Holy which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

1:36. And behold thy cousin Elizabeth, she also hath conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her that is called barren.

1:37. Because no word shall be impossible with God.

1:38. And Mary said: Behold the handmaid of the Lord: be it done to me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Leader: God, Father of Light, bless this Advent candle. O Jesus, you are the light of the world. You have come to strengthen the weary, to guide the lost, to walk with the lonely. You are the hope of all people. Help us to see your will in us. Always be with us so that we will come to know you in many ways. We recognize the glory of your light when we see a smile on a little child's face. Teach us always to realize your presence among us. "Maranatha, Come, Lord Jesus."

(Light all four candles)

### **Christmas Day**

If the song, "The Advent Wreath", is used, then the candle for Christmas (the white candle) is lit during the entrance procession. If it is not used, it is customary for the fifth candle (the white candle in the center) to be lit at any appropriate time between immediately prior to the entrance processional to immediately following the Gospel.

(Light all four candles plus the fifth, center, white candle)

+

