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Advent Wreath Year A

Vincent Glynn

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The Advent Wreath

Adapted by Vincent Glynn

Within the four weeks of the Advent season the Church's liturgy draws attention to different facets of how God's plan **has been revealed** in Christ, **is now revealed** in every Mass we celebrate, and that Christ **will be revealed** in his glory, when he comes again at a time we do not know.

For each Sunday of Advent we take our focus for the Advent Wreath from our Advent traditions. Like the people of the Old Testament we live in hope for the fullness of the revelation of Christ the Messiah when he will come in glory to judge the living and the dead.

The Advent Wreath Responsory often replaces the Penitential Act and therefore leads into the Opening Prayer.

First Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Presider:

The Presider blesses the wreath and the assembly with the sprinkling of holy water, using these or similar words:

May the sprinkling of this water
remind all of us gathered here
of our first sharing in the grace of baptism.
During this time of Advent
may we prepare for the Lord's coming
with open hearts and minds.
May this wreath be a symbol to us
of this time of prayerful watching and waiting
for the coming of the Lord.

The Presider or an assistant lights the first candle, which is often named the Prophets' Candle as the prophets prepared the way for the future coming of the Messiah.

V. Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophets of old. The Prophet Isaiah called the Chosen People and today calls all people 'to walk in the light of the Lord.' (First Reading)

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, we believe you come among us now. St Paul urges us to be people of the light and to let our armour be the Lord Jesus Christ. (Second Reading)

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you will come again in glory. You ask us to 'stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour we do not expect.' (Gospel)

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider [Collect: First Sunday of Advent]

Grant your faithful, we pray, Almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his

coming,
so that gathered at your right hand,
they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom,
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son,
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God for ever and ever.

R. Amen

Second Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Presider:

The Presider or an assistant lights the second candle, which can be named the John the Baptist Candle. John the Baptist was the one who prepared the way for the Lord.

V. Lord Jesus, your coming was proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah who calls us to be a signal to the nations and to recognise the Messiah in our midst. (First Reading)

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you come among us now. St Paul reminds us to treat each other as Christ treats us and so give glory to the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ. (Second Reading)

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you will come again in glory. John the Baptist calls us to 'repent for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' (Gospel)

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider [Collect: Second Sunday of Advent]

Almighty and merciful God,
may no earthly undertaking hinder those
who set out in haste to meet your Son,
but may our learning of heavenly wisdom
gain us admittance to his company
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen

Third Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Presider:

The Presider or an assistant lights the third candle, which can be named the Saints' Candle to call to mind all the saints who share the life of Christ by being baptised into his Body the Church.

V. Lord Jesus, your coming was foretold by the prophet Isaiah who proclaims 'Look, your God is coming, he is coming to save you.' (First Reading)

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you come among us now as the light of the world. St James urges us to be patient and not to lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon. (Second Reading)

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you will come again in glory and raise the dead to new life. (Gospel)

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider [Collect: Third Sunday of Advent]

O God, who see how your people
Faithfully await the feast of the Lord's nativity,
enable us, we pray,
to attain the joys of so great a salvation
and to celebrate them always
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your son,
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever

R. Amen

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year A)

Presider:

The Presider or an assistant lights the fourth candle, which is often named the Angel Gabriel Candle for those messengers who bring God's Word into our world.

V. Lord Jesus, your coming was foretold by the prophet Isaiah when he proclaimed 'The maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means God is with us.' (First Reading)

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you come among us now in your Word and Sacrament to give us the strength to live according to the Good News you revealed. (Second Reading)

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

V. Lord Jesus, you will come in glory in the fullness of time because you are the Christ the one who has saved his people from their sins. (Gospel)

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Presider [Collect: Fourth Sunday of Advent]

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ your
Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever

R. Amen