

# Order for the Blessing of the Advent Wreath<sup>1</sup>

All make the sign of the cross then the leader says:

**Our help is in the name of the Lord**

All reply:

**Who made heaven and earth.**

One of those present reads a text of Sacred Scripture, for example:

**Brothers and sisters, let us listen to the words of prophet Isaiah:**

9:1-2,5-6

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.*

**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.  
You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing,  
As they rejoice before you as at the harvest,  
as people make merry when dividing spoils.  
For a child is born to us, a son is given us;  
upon his shoulder dominion rests.  
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,  
Father-Forever, Prince of peace.  
His dominion is vast and forever peaceful.  
From David's throne, and over his kingdom  
which he confirms and sustains  
By judgment and justice,  
both now and forever.**

Or:

*Isaiah 63:16-17,19; 64:2-7 - You, Lord, are our redeemer.*

*Jeremiah 33:14-16 - I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.*

*1 John 1:5-7 - God is light; walk in the light.*

*Matthew 1:18-25 - The birth of Jesus.*

The leader says a prayer of blessing, with hands joined.

**Lord God,  
your Church joyfully awaits the coming of the Savior,  
who enlightens our hearts  
and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin.**

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<sup>1</sup> From **Book of Blessings**, prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy: A Joint Commission of Catholic Bishops' Conferences. Published by THE LITURGICAL PRESS, Collegeville, Minnesota: 1992

**Pour forth your blessings upon us  
as we light the candles of this wreath;  
may their light reflect the splendor of Christ,  
who is lord, for ever and ever.**

All reply:

**Amen.**

Or:

**Lord our God,  
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:  
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,  
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,  
he is the Savior of every nation.**

**Lord God,  
let your blessing come upon us  
as we light the candles of this wreath.  
May the wreath and its light  
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.  
May he come quickly and not delay.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

All reply

**Amen.**

Here the first purple candle is lit.

On the Second Sunday of Advent the first candle is relit as well as a second purple candle.

On the Third Sunday of Advent the first and second candle are relit as the rose-colored candle.

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent all the candles are lit.

The lighting can be followed by Evening Prayer, or spontaneous intercessions by all those present, or Grace before Meals if the evening meal is to follow.