



A Brief Advent Devotion for the Family Table

For use during Advent 2021

An Advent wreath may be 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, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

Refrain

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

Week 2

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*

Week 3

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Week 4 (Sunday only)

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 4

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*
LSB 357:3, 2, 1, 4, 6

Behold!

These passages follow the broad story of the Old Testament — mankind's sin, God's long suffering and the prophecies of Christ — through the use of the interjection "behold!" Family members can take turns reading the Scripture for each day.

First Week in Advent

Nov. 28 — "And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day" (Gen. 1:31).

Nov. 29 — "And God saw the earth, and behold, it was corrupt, for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth" (Gen. 6:12).

Nov. 30 — "Behold, my covenant is with you, [Abraham,] and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations" (Gen. 17:4).

Dec. 1 — "And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son" (Gen. 22:13).

Dec. 2 — "And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them" (Ex. 3:9).

Dec. 3 — "Behold, the LORD our God has shown us his glory and greatness, and we have heard his voice out of the midst of the fire. This day we have seen God speak with man, and man still live" (Deut. 5:24).

Dec. 4 — "And the LORD said to Moses, 'I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people'" (Ex. 32:9).

Second Week in Advent

Dec. 5 — "And I looked, and behold, you had sinned against the LORD your God. You had made yourselves a golden calf. You had turned aside quickly from the way that the LORD had commanded you" (Deut. 9:16).

Dec. 6 — “I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel” (Num. 24:17).

Dec. 7 — “Behold, a son shall be born to you who shall be a man of rest. I will give him rest from all his surrounding enemies. For his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days” (1 Chron. 22:9).

Dec. 8 — “But will God indeed dwell with man on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, how much less this house that I have built!” (2 Chron. 6:18).

Dec. 9 — “Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are upon the sinful kingdom, and I will destroy it from the surface of the ground, except that I will not utterly destroy the house of Jacob,” declares the LORD” (Amos 9:8).

Dec. 10 — “Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left,” says the LORD” (Isaiah 39:6).

Dec. 11 — “Thus says the LORD: ‘Behold, I will restore the fortunes of the tents of Jacob and have compassion on his dwellings’” (Jer. 30:18).

Third Week in Advent

Dec. 12 — “O LORD, the God of Israel, you are just, for we are left a remnant that has escaped, as it is today. Behold, we are before you in our guilt, for none can stand before you because of this” (Ezra 9:15).

Dec. 13 — “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah” (Jer. 31:31).

Dec. 14 — “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch. ... And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness’” (Jer. 23:5–6).

Dec. 15 — “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).

Dec. 16 — “For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out” (Ezek. 34:11).

The O Antiphons of Advent begin (See LSB 357)

Dec. 17 — “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts” (Mal. 3:1).

Dec. 18 — “Behold, upon the mountains, the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace!” (Nah. 1:15).

Fourth Week in Advent

Dec. 19 — “Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him’” (Isaiah 62:11).

Dec. 20 — “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey” (Zech. 9:9).

Dec. 21 — “Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: ‘Whoever believes will not be in haste’” (Isaiah 28:16).

Dec. 22 — “Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations” (Isaiah 42:1).

Dec. 23 — “Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maidservant to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us” (Psalm 123:2).

Dec. 24 — “And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord’” (Luke 2:10–11).

Grace

All pray together:

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

or

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

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.

or

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

More Advent resources for congregations and families can be found at lcms.org/advent.