

# Advent

A Time of Preparation and Waiting . . .

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



“Drop down dew, ye heavens above, and let  
the clouds rain the Just One.”

“Let the earth be opened and  
bud forth a Saviour.”

*On the first Sunday of Advent the family gathers for the blessing of the Advent wreath by the father, who begins:*

Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

All: Who hast made heaven and earth.

**Father:** Let us pray: O God, by whose Word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

*Grace Before Meals*

**Mother:** The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the Lord.

All: Make straight His paths.

All: Bless us O Lord, and these Thy gifts which we are about to receive from Thy bounty through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

**Father:** Drop down dew, ye heavens above, and let the clouds rain the Just One.

All: Let the earth be opened and bud forth a Saviour.

**First Week**

**The first candle (purple) is lighted and the prayer for the first week is said:**

Exert we beseech Thee, O Lord, thy power and come; that by Thy protection we may be freed from the imminent dangers of our sins, and be saved by Thy mercy; Who livest and reignest God, world without end. Amen.

Now say the prayer the Church prays in honor of the Mother of God:

*Let us pray:* O God, who wast pleased that Thy Word, when the angel delivered his message, should take flesh in the womb of the blessed Virgin Mary; give ear to our humble petitions, and grant that we, who believe her to be truly the Mother of God, may be helped by her prayers. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Second Week**  
**(light two purple candles)**

Stir up, O Lord, our hearts to prepare the ways of Thy only-begotten Son: that by His coming we may be enabled to serve Thee with pure minds; Who livest and reignest God, world without end. Amen.

**Prayer of the Church in honor of the Mother of God.**

**Third Week**  
**(light two purple candles and the rose candle)**

Bend Thine ear, O Lord, we beseech Thee, to our prayers, and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation; Who livest and reignest God, world without end. Amen.

**Prayer of the Church in honor of the Mother of God.**

**Fourth Week**  
**(light all four candles)**

Exert, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy power and come; and succor us by Thy great might; that by the assistance of Thy grace, Thy indulgent mercy may hasten what is delayed by our sins; Who livest and reignest God, world without end. Amen.

**Prayer of the Church in honor of the Mother of God.**