

We wait in joyful Hope...

2023 Advent supper prayer and worship at home



A spirit of longing hope fills our advent days of faithful waiting. The days are dark with division, hatred, war in the birthplace of the one for whom we wait, the suffering in Ukraine and the longing, tearful eyes of so many innocent children. Isaiah's lament these days is new, *"Would that you would meet us doing right, that we might be mindful of you in our ways!"* We long for a new day, spirit, and vision, wondering why so many hearts are hardened. We long for healing light, we hope, as we sing with the Psalmist on the Second Advent Sunday, that *"Kindness and truth shall meet; justice and peace shall kiss."*

So, we wait for a new spirit, and a renewed Church—a Church, as the worldwide "Synod" reflects, to be a *"home for the wounded and broken, not an institution of the perfect."* This is an Advent and Christmas calling us to believe that the Word of God is made flesh of our flesh and spirit of our spirit, even in these days. Yes, we wait in joyful hope.

As we wait, we remember that we, in our homes, are a **domestic church—a church at home**. Together we pray, eat and drink, laugh and sing around our tables as family or friends. This too is holy; this too we do in memory of Christ, who was so often found and recognized in ordinary homes at the family table, eating and drinking ordinary bread and wine. At our home tables we are nourished for faithful service, holy

communion, and shared love. This is why the Second Vatican Council calls the home **"the Domestic Church."** It is there that the love of God is first recognized; it is at home that we first turn to God in prayer, there that we learn the language of prayer and the virtues of Christian living.

This "ADVENT RITUAL SUPPER AT HOME" modeled from the "shape" of Sunday Liturgy, can lead us to a deeper appreciation of our shared Eucharist at Mass. This is intended to occur on Sunday but could be used any day of the week.

A voice cries out,
in the desert

prepare...



the way of the Lord...

Prepare... Determine as a household that you will gather each Sunday evening for this special dinner. Place the family advent wreath in the center of the table. BLESS YOUR ADVENT WREATH earlier on Sunday morning or afternoon (a blessing prayer for the advent wreath is available on the website.... *Click on the CATHOLIC HOUSEHOLD BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS tab.*

The dinner needs to be special. Good food, which all can help prepare; a TABLE set with the best dinnerware you have; dim lighting, and the ADVENT WREATH with four candles. The first Sunday the candles are unlit, on succeeding Sundays the candle/s of the previous week are lighted before all gather at table.

Place all the food on the table before the prayer begins.

The Way...

When all is ready, all STAND around the Table. The Leader of the day begins with the SIGN OF THE CROSS.

All then SING together: CHRIST, CIRCLE ROUND US.

For many years this has been our parish Advent hymn (as it is this year) as we gathered each Advent Sunday. Remember how the Candles of Advent "circle 'round" us in Church, as Christ lights the darkness of our living and our times.

The hymn is available on the opening page of the parish website (blessedtrinitymissoula.org). Listen to the hymn, let the words touch your heart, and sing along:

*Come, O Radiant Dawn, splendor of the morning light. Come, Sun of Justice, turn away the power of night.
Christ, circle 'round us. Christ, may your light surround us. Shine in our living.
Fill our hearts with great thanksgiving.*

*Come, O Flower of Love, Holy Branch of Jesse's tree. Come Bough of Blessing, bloom for all the world to see.
Christ, circle 'round us. Christ, may your light surround us. Shine in our living.
Fill our hearts with great thanksgiving.*

*Come, O Gate of Hope, holy door to heaven's throne. Come, Key of David, open wide the pathway home.
Christ, circle 'round us. Christ, may your light surround us. Shine in our living.
Fill our hearts with great thanksgiving.*

*Come, Emanuel, cherished hope of Israel. Come live among us, ever in our hearts to dwell.
Christ, circle 'round us. Christ, may your light surround us. Shine in our living.
Fill our hearts with great thanksgiving.*

Text based on Advent O Antiphons. Music adapt. from chant, Salve Regina.
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AT THE END OF THE HYMN the Advent Candle of the week is lighted.



...of the Lord.

Following the Prayer, a person designated prays the Opening Prayer of the Sunday:

First Sunday

LET US PRAY:

**Rend the heavens and come down, O God of all the ages!
Rouse us from sleep, deliver us from our heedless ways,
and form us into a watchful people, that, at the advent of your Son,
he may find us doing what is right, mindful of all you command.**

**Grant this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near:
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.**

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Second Sunday

LET US PRAY:

**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, forever and ever. AMEN**

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Third Sunday

LET US PRAY:

**O God, most high and most near, you send glad tidings to the lowly,
you hide not your face from the poor;
those who dwell in darkness you call into the light.
Take away our blindness, remove the hardness of our hearts,
and form us into a humble people, that,
at the advent of your Son,
we may recognize him in our midst
and find joy in his saving presence.**

**We ask this through him
whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near: your Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. AMEN.**

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Fourth Sunday

LET US PRAY:

**Here in our midst, O God of mystery,
you disclose the secret hidden for countless ages.**

**For you we wait; for you we listen. Upon hearing your voice may we,
like Mary, embrace your will and become a dwelling fit for your Word.**

**Grant this through him, whose coming is certain, whose day draws near:
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.**

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At the conclusion of the Prayer ALL ARE SEATED.

After all are seated all may join in singing the ALLEUIA Gospel Acclamation which we are singing in Church:

Mass of Christ the Savior
Dan Schutte



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
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Following the Acclamation, a designated person reads the **GOSPEL OF THE SUNDAY**



a voice cries out...

The **First** Sunday of Advent

A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: “Be watchful! Be alert!

You do not know when the time will come.

It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning.

May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The **Second** Sunday of Advent

A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

As it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way.

A voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”

John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

People of the whole Judean countryside

and all the inhabitants of Jerusalem were going out to him

and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

John was clothed in camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist.

He fed on locusts and wild honey.

And this is what he proclaimed: “One mightier than I is coming after me.

I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals.

I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The **Third** Sunday of Advent

A reading from the Gospel of John.

1:6-8, 19-28

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John.

When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, “Who are you?”

He admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, “I am not the Christ.”

So they asked him, “What are you then? Are you Elijah?” And he said, “I am not.”

“Are you the Prophet?” He answered, “No.” So they said to him, “Who are you,

so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?”

He said: “I am *the voice of one crying out in the desert, ‘make straight the way of the Lord,’*” as Isaiah the prophet said.”

Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?” John answered them,

“I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.”

This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The **Fourth** Sunday of Advent [*this year, 2023, the Fourth Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve—It would be appropriate to share supper this week on Saturday evening, December 23*]

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary.

And coming to her, he said,

“Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.”

But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

“Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.

He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

But Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?”

And the angel said to her in reply, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.

Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.”

Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.

May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



*Following the Gospel reading, if anyone wishes to share a brief reflection on the Gospel they may do so. Some may wish to offer a prayer for others, such as the sick, health care workers, family, friends, or neighbors unable to be present or for other intentions. **The Sunday parish General Intercessions are also available on the website and could be prayed at this time. Praying these prayers is a good “connection” to our Sunday Eucharist at the Lord’s Table.***

THEN, all pray the GRACE BEFORE MEALS:

**Bless us, O Lord and these thy gifts,
which we are about to receive
from your bounty, through Christ our Lord. AMEN.**

OR all may pray the LORD’S PRAYER

Dinner is served.

At the end of the meal a leader prays a concluding prayer:

LET US PRAY.

**Loving God we give you thanks for you have nourished us with faith, hope and love.
Let the meal we have shared, the prayer we have offered and the song we have sung,
strengthen us in the bond of communion and nurture us for faithful service
as we wait in joyful hope.**

We ask this through Christ the Lord, forever and ever. AMEN

Conclude with a verse of O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

- 1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
REFRAIN: REJOICE! REJOICE! EMMANUEL SHALL COME TO YOU, O ISRAEL!**
- 2. O come, O Wisdom from on high, who orders all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.**
- 3. O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of humankind;
Make all our sad divisions cease, and be for us the King of Peace.**



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designed and edited by Fr. Ed Hislop, Blessed Trinity Catholic Community. Advent 2023

