



We wait in joyful Hope...

2025 Advent supper prayer and worship at home

A spirit of joyful hope fills our advent days of faithful waiting. The days are dark. We long for healing light in so many places in our world where the darkness of war, hate and fear seems so strong. In our own land, in our city and town, *we are disturbed when we see among our people a climate of fear and anxiety around questions of profiling and immigration enforcement. We are saddened by the state of contemporary debate and the vilification of immigrants,* who must live in fear for themselves, their children, and friends, here in our own community and neighborhoods. But we also see the light of hope as ordinary people speak, care, support, and offer themselves in loving service and presence. We feel a sense of hope in our church as we welcome our new Pope Leo XIV who inspires the vision of continued renewal and a spirit of “moving forward,” inviting us 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. It is time, again to “life up our hearts,” and “walk in the light of the Lord.”

So, wait in “joyful hope,” “rejoicing as we go to the House of the Lord,” preparing to live in the darkness with the promise of light and goodness.

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. 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. On 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: COME LORD, MARANATHA (“Maranatha” means, “O, Lord, Come!”)

As we gather each Advent Sunday for Mass, we sing this hymn as the candle of each Advent Sunday moves among us the candles of Advent surround us, as Christ lights the darkness of our living and our times.

The hymn is available on the opening page of the ADVENT + CHRISTMASTIME PRAYER AT HOME page on the parish website (blessedtrinitymissoula.org). Listen to the hymn, let the words touch your heart. All could sing the refrain:

COME, LORD! MARANATHA

Come Now, Emmanuel

Ricky Manalo, CSP

Refrain

Advent Weeks 1-3 Come, Lord! Ma - ra - na - tha! Come and bring us your
Advent Week 4 Come now, Em-man - u - el! Come and bring us your

peace. Come, Lord, Ma - ra - na - tha! Come to us;
peace. Come now, Em - man - u - el! Come to us;

set us free. Come, Lord, and bring us your peace.
set us free. Come now and bring us your peace.

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AT THE END OF THE HYMN the Advent Candle of the week is lit.



...of the Lord.

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

First Sunday

LET US PRAY:

**GOD OF MAJESTY AND POWER,
amid the clamor of our violence your Word of truth resounds;
upon a world made dark by sin the Sun of Justice casts his dawning rays.**

**Keep your household watchful and aware of the hour in which we live.
Hasten the advent of that day when the sounds of war will be forever stilled,
the darkness of evil scattered, and all your children gathered into one.**

**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 forever and ever.**

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Second Sunday

LET US PRAY:

**YOUR KINGDOM IS AT HAND, O God of justice and peace;
you made John the Baptist its herald to announce the coming of your Christ,
who baptizes with the Holy Spirit and with fire.**

**Give us a spirit of repentance to make us worthy of the kingdom.
Let complacency yield to conviction,
that in our day justice will flourish and conflict give way
to the peace you bestow in Christ.**

**Grant this through the one 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 forever and ever.**

AMEN

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Third Sunday

LET US PRAY:

**GOD OF GLORY AND COMPASSION,
at your touch the wilderness blossoms,
broken lives are made whole,
and fearful hearts grow strong in faith.**

**Open our eyes to your presence and
awaken our hearts to sing your praise.
To all who long for your Son's return
grant perseverance and patience,
that we may announce in word and deed
the good news of the kingdom.**

**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 forever and ever.**

AMEN.

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Fourth Sunday

LET US PRAY:

ETERNAL GOD,
in the psalms of David, in the words of the prophets,
in the dream of Joseph your promise is spoken.

At last, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, your Word takes flesh.

Teach us to welcome Jesus, the promised Emmanuel,
and to preach the good news of his coming,
that every age may know him
as the source of redemption and grace.

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 forever 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:

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ADVENT

John Schiavone



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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 Matthew*

24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: "As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The **Second** Sunday of Advent: *A reading from the Gospel of Matthew*

3:1-12

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: / *A voice of one crying out in the desert, / Prepare the way of the Lord, / make straight his paths.* / John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe lies at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The **Third** Sunday of Advent: *A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*

11:2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: / *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; / he will prepare your way before you.* / Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Gospel of the Lord.

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The **Fourth** Sunday of Advent: *A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*

1:18-24

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: / *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, / and they shall name him Emmanuel, / which means "God is with us."* When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

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 parish website [blessedtrinitymissoula.org] 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.**

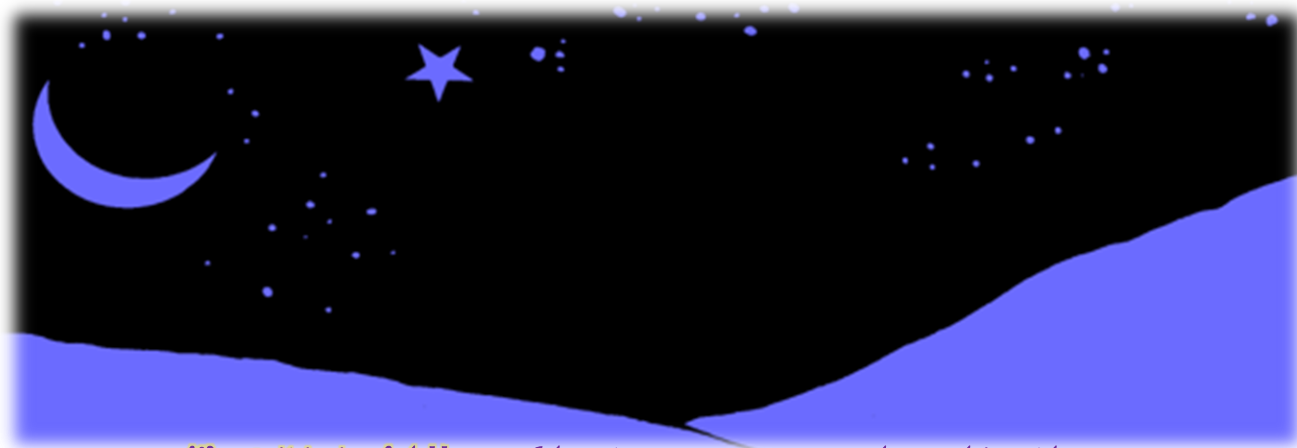
We ask this through Christ the Lord, forever and ever. AMEN

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 2025

