

Prayer for lighting the Advent Wreath



Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the people, 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. Amen.

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Prayers for four weeks of Advent

First Week

Almighty and loving God, we have searched our hearts and reviewed our love for your people. Some relationships overflow with love while others have been found wanting.

Yet it is our desire that you be a part of every human experience. We beg you now to fill our hearts with your love and sharpen our awareness of your presence in every moment so that wherever we go and whatever we do, we will always stand secure before you.

Amen.

Second Week

Almighty and loving God, you who dwell within our hearts at every waking moment, keep us always close to you. Help us to recognize and appreciate the gifts and talents you have given us. Teach us to use our energies for the good of others and the glory of your Son, Jesus, whose promise is too precious to ignore. Keep our hearts and minds ever alert to your personal and loving touch in every prayer, in every act of worship.

Amen.

Third Week

Almighty and loving God, your son has taught us the way to live as your children. We were blessed in our baptisms with special gifts and graces, and still there are times when we find it hard to be all that we should be.

We ask for an increased awareness of the needs of others and for the courage to stand up for those who can not stand up for themselves. Please, God, help us to so live in your grace that all who know us will know you and your love.

Amen.

Fourth Week

Almighty and loving God, soon the whole world will celebrate the birth of your Son, Jesus. Even as we rejoice in our remembrance of his birth at Bethlehem, we find greater comfort in his promise to come again.

May our preparations for this wondrous season remain with us, increase in us, and become as much a part of us as our breathing and our heartbeat. Then may we say, "Come, Lord Jesus, we are ready."

Amen.