

First Saturday of Advent

Lord Draw Near (pre recorded)

Welcome

Everything has changed. It is now the time of the color purple. Purple is the color of kings and queens. It is a serious color because something serious is about to happen. A king is coming. The Church a long time ago, set aside 4 weeks to help us prepare for this coming king and Christmas. These 4 weeks are called Advent and they are so important because they help us understand what is coming, why it is serious, and why it is mysterious.

Jesus called himself the Light of the World, and at Advent, we light candles to remind ourselves of the light of hope he brought into a world filled with the darkness of sin.

What is hope? Hope is looking forward to something wonderful. It's expecting something good to happen. Like Jesus to come.

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy

Leader: "Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. This first candle is HOPE."

All: **"We wait in hope for the Lord; he is our help and our shield." (Psalm 33:20)**

Leader: Eternal God, as we await the coming of our savior, give us the courage to hope. Give us grace to see your plans of redemption for our lives, for this community, and for the world.

Through Jesus Christ, the source of our redemption and hope. **Amen**

The Invitatory

Cantor: O God, make speed to save us.

People: **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*

O gracious light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,

O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.

The Lessons

A Reading from Isaiah 9:2-3 adapted from The Voice

The people who had been living in darkness

have seen a great light.

The light of life has shined on those who dwelt

in the shadowy darkness.

And You, God, will make it happen. You are going to make your people strong again. You will saturated us with lots and lots of rejoicing.

Discussion: What are some things you hope for? What are some ways our family can give hope to others? What's so hopeful about Jesus coming into the world?

The Prayers

<i>Officiant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Officiant</i>	Let us pray.

Officiant and People

The Suffrages (adapted)

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,
We ask you, God.

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,
We ask you, God.

That we may be forgiven for our sins and offenses,
We ask you, God.

That there may be peace in the whole world,
We ask you, God.

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of all your saints,
entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,
We ask you, God.

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or
weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who
sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless
the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the
joyous; and all for your love's sake. **Amen.**

A prayer of Thanksgiving for Advent I

**All: O Lord, our God, thank you for not leaving us in darkness but for sending
your light into the world instead. Help us to shine your light in all the corners of
the world. May your light and love radiate from us and give hope where it seems
that all hope is lost. Help us to be yours as we wait for you to come again. We
love you. Amen.**

The Lord is My Light (pre-recorded)