



2024 Advent Wreath Lighting Evening Blessing for Family



Dear St. James' Family,

As we begin this season of Advent, we are given a holy invitation to slow down and be called back to our deepest knowing and longing to meet God in our midst. Some of the ways that I encourage people to do this is to be intentional about how you schedule your four weeks leading up to Christmas, choosing time with those you love over material things, and incorporating a prayer practice that orients the joys of this time around God's revelation to the world.



In this booklet you will find prayers for the lighting of an Advent Wreath. Traditionally an Advent Wreath is placed on a dining room table or in another central gathering place. You are invited to light these candles at every meal, but on Sundays when a new candle is lit, you can use the brief prayer services below to bless your meal and life with those you are gathered with.

May God's love surround you in this time. And may God's blessing be with you this day and always.

Yours in Christ,
Mother Pilar



**St. James' Christmas Worship
December 24-Christmas Eve**

- 4PM Family Christmas Service with Children's Pageant
- 7PM Christmas Eucharist with Contemporary Music
- 9:30PM Special Music Selections
- 10PM Christmas Eucharist with Organ & Choir

*All Worship is In-Person & Live-Streamed on [facebook.com/StJamesSkaneateles](https://www.facebook.com/StJamesSkaneateles)

December 1, 2024

Advent I

Opening Prayer

(Take a moment to center yourselves with a pause for silence)

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

At this time the candle is lit and the following is said. If your candles are the traditional advent wreath colors, for the first Sunday of Advent you will light a purple candle. If they are not the traditional colors, choose any candle, but the center Christ Candle.

Let us pray.

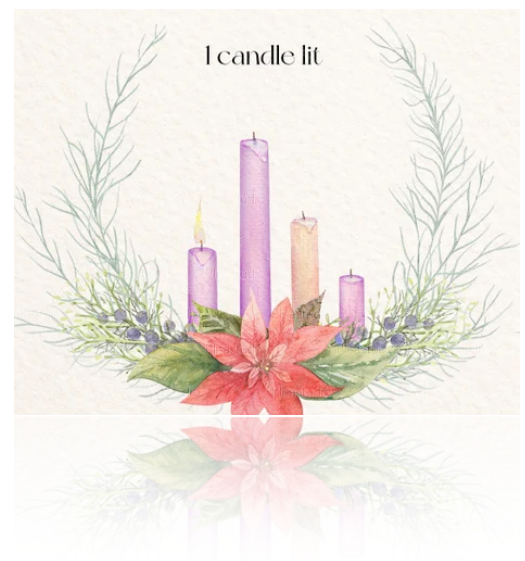
Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*
(Saying together)

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 thy praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Thou art 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.



A Reading from the Book of Genesis

The man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."



The Lord God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

And to the man he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of
your wife,
and have eaten of the tree
about which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it’,
cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your
life;
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread
until you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Blessing

The Lord bless us and keep us. *Amen.*
The Lord make his face to shine upon us
and be gracious to us. *Amen.*
The Lord lift up his countenance upon us
and give us peace. *Amen.*

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours
of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and
chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

December 8, 2024

Advent II

Opening Prayer

(Take a moment to center yourselves with a pause for silence)

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

At this time the candles are lit and the following is said. If your candles are the traditional advent wreath colors, for the second Sunday of Advent you will light two purple candles. If they are not the traditional colors, choose any two candles, but the center Christ Candle.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*
(Saying together)

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 thy praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Thou art 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.



A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
 on them light has shined.
For a child has been born for us,
 a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
 and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
 and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
 He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
 from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God



The Blessing

The Lord bless us and keep us. *Amen.*
The Lord make his face to shine upon us
 and be gracious to us. *Amen.*
The Lord lift up his countenance upon us
 and give us peace. *Amen.*

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours
of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and
chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

December 15, 2024

Advent III

Opening Prayer

(Take a moment to center yourselves with a pause for silence)

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

At this time the candles are lit and the following is said. If your candles are the traditional advent wreath colors, for the third Sunday of Advent you will light two purple candles and the pink candle. If they are not the traditional colors, choose any three candles, but the center Christ Candle.

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*

(Saying together)

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 thy praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Thou art 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.





A Reading from the Book of the Gospel of Luke

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "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 holy; he will be called Son of God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Blessing

The Lord bless us and keep us. *Amen.*
The Lord make his face to shine upon us
and be gracious to us. *Amen.*
The Lord lift up his countenance upon us
and give us peace. *Amen.*

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

December 22, 2024

Advent IV

Opening Prayer

(Take a moment to center yourselves with a pause for silence)

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

At this time the candles are lit and the following is said. If your candles are the traditional advent wreath colors, for the fourth Sunday of Advent you will light all of the candles with the exception of the center Christ Candle.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*

(Saying together)

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 thy praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Thou art 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.





A Reading from the Gospel of Luke

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Blessing

The Lord bless us and keep us. *Amen.*
The Lord make his face to shine upon us
and be gracious to us. *Amen.*
The Lord lift up his countenance upon us
and give us peace. *Amen.*

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve

Opening Prayer

(Take a moment to center yourselves with a pause for silence)

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

At this time the candles all of the candles are lit, including the Center Christ Candle.

O Gracious Light *Phos hilaron*
(Saying together)

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 thy praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Thou art 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.





A Reading from the Gospel of Luke

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Blessing

The Lord bless us and keep us. *Amen.*
The Lord make his face to shine upon us
and be gracious to us. *Amen.*
The Lord lift up his countenance upon us
and give us peace. *Amen.*

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*