



1. All make the Sign of the Cross.

2. The leader begins:

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R. Who made Heaven and earth.

Leader: In the short days and long nights of Advent, we realize how we are always waiting for deliverance, always needing salvation by our God. Around this wreath, we shall remember God's promise.

3. Then the verse from Holy Scripture is read:

"The people that walked in darkness, have seen a great light: to them that dwelt in the region of the shadow of death, light is risen. Thou hast multiplied the nation, and hast not increased the joy. They shall rejoice before thee, as they that rejoice in the harvest" (Isaias 9:2-3).

4. Then all pray together:

Come, O long-expected Jesus—Redeemer and Savior of mankind! Plant in me a seed of wonder at the wisdom and power of Thy Father; the mercy of the Son, and the love of the Holy Ghost.

Come, O long-expected Jesus—Redeemer and Savior of mankind! Sow in me the seed of sorrow

for sin; a desire for penance; a contempt of my past sins and a love for Thy example of humility and poverty.

Come, O long-expected Jesus—Redeemer and Savior of mankind! Plant in me a seed of a great desire and love for prayer and the things of Heaven and a great distaste and hatred for worldliness of the world.

Come, O long-expected Jesus—Redeemer and Savior of mankind! Plant in me the seed of a great Faith and knowledge of Thee; a great Hope and confidence in Thee; and a great love of and a humble submission to Thee.

O shepherd of Israel, hearken,
O guide of the flock of Joseph!
Rouse Thy power, and come to save us.

O Lord of hosts, restore us,
if Thy face shine upon us, then we shall be safe.

O Lord of hosts, how long wilt Thou burn with anger while Thy people in misery pray?

Thou hast fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in ample measure.

Thou hast left us to be fought over by our neighbors,
and our enemies mock us.

O Lord of hosts, restore us,
if Thy face shine upon us, then we shall be safe.

I beg these graces in the Name of Jesus Christ,
whose advent I hail. Amen.

5. Then the Leader says the prayer of blessing:

Let us pray: All-powerful God, bless this Advent wreath with Thy own hand, (make a Sign of the Cross) in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen. Increase our strength of will for doing good and avoiding evil; grant us a love of virtue and hatred of sin, so that Christ may find an eager welcome at His coming and call us to His side in the Kingdom of Heaven, where He lives and reigns with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.