

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – December 12, 2010

This article is comprised of three prayers intended for use in your home. The prayer for use with the Advent Wreath may be used when you gather for a meal. The Blessings for the Christmas Tree and Manger may be used after you have decorated or on Christmas Eve. I hope they help you, and all who gather in your home, to enter more deeply into the wonderful mystery of God-with-us, Emmanuel!

Advent Wreath Prayer

Like the farmer who patiently awaits the growth of what was planted, so we must be patient for our Lord to come again. This is a time of joy and so we should not grumble against one another, but instead reflect the Light of Jesus to all we meet.

As two violet and one rose candle is lighted, the leader says: Christ our Light.

Everyone responds: Thanks be to God!

Blessing of the Christmas Tree

(Begin with the Sign of the Cross.)

Leader: By the goodness of God, Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea. His birth brings joy to our hearts. With this tree, decorated for Christmas, may we welcome Christ into our home. May the lights of this tree guide us to the perfect Light, Jesus our Lord.

Read Isaiah 9:1-6

Leader: Let us offer our needs to God.

(L) That the Church reflect God's love...

All: Lord hear our prayer.

(L) That this tree may remind us of the "tree of life," the Cross of Jesus...

All: Lord hear our prayer.

(L) That we may know the joy of Christmas through

all the New Year...

All: Lord hear our prayer.

(L) That the poor, the sick and the lonely may find peace from God...

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All: Our Father...

Leader: Holy Lord, with joy we celebrate the birth of your Son, who saved us from the darkness of sin by making the cross a tree of life and light.

May this tree, decorated for the Season, remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Blessing of the Manger

(Begin with the sign of the Cross.)

Leader: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, we pause to bless this Christmas nativity scene. The practice of erecting such mangers was begun by St. Francis of Assisi to help people see what God has done for us. When we look upon these figures, the Christmas Gospel comes alive and we rejoice in the mystery of the Son of God born as a man.

Read Luke 2:1-8

Leader: Let us offer our needs to God.

(L) That we may see Jesus in others...

All: Lord hear our prayer.

(L) That we may be more like Jesus...

All: Lord hear our prayer.

(L) That we may adore Christ as the angels and shepherds did that first Christmas...

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All: Our Father...

Leader: God of every nation and people, from the beginning of creation you have shown your love. When our need was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.