

Lighting of the Advent Candles (Epistle Year A)

This set of readings for the lighting of the Advent candles is based on the Epistle lessons of the Revised Common Lectionary in Year A.

At each successive lighting of the Advent candles, all texts from the preceding lightings are read in addition to the text introduced that day.

On the First Sunday of Advent and following Sundays:

We light this candle [these candles] as a sign of the coming light of Christ,
as we await the blessed hope and manifestation *Titus 2*
of the glory of our great God and Savior.

Now is the moment to wake from sleep, *Romans 13*
for salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

And on the Second Sunday of Advent, and at successive lightings:

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement *Romans 15*
grant us to live in harmony with one another,
welcoming one another, just as Christ welcomed us,
for the glory of God.

And on the Third Sunday of Advent, and at successive lightings:

Be patient and strengthen your hearts, *James 5*
for the coming of the Lord is near.

And on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and at successive lightings:

We are called to be saints of God, *Romans 1*
bearing witness to the light of Jesus Christ.

And on the eve of Christmas, or on Christmas Day:

Now the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. *Titus 2*

On each occasion the lighting of the candles is concluded with:

The night is far gone; the day is near. *Romans 13*