

Advent Wreath Lighting - Week 4

Opening Song

THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE



1. The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His
2. "For know a bless - ed Moth - er you shall be, All
3. Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head; "To
4. Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born In



1. wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; "All
2. gen - er - a - tions praise con - tin - ual - ly, Your
3. me be as it pleas - es God!" she said. "My
4. Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn; And



1. hail," said he, "O low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,"
 2. Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told."
 3. soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name."
 4. Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:
- } "Most



- 1-4. high - ly fa - vored la - dy!" Glo - ri - a!

Text: 10 10 12 10; *Birjina gaztettobat zegoen*; trad. Basque carol; tr. by Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924.
Music: Trad. Basque carol melody.

Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

AMEN

May God, who enlightens every heart, be with you.

AND WITH YOUR SPIRIT.

My brothers and sisters, we gather during this holy season of Advent and open our hearts to God's love as we prepare to welcome Christ more deeply into our lives and homes. The candles of this wreath remind us that Jesus Christ came to conquer the darkness of sin and to lead us into the light of his glorious kingdom.

Lighting of the Wreath

The family comes forward and lights the wreath as the leader prays:

Lord our God,

We praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:

He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ' promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay.

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary.

And coming to her, he said,

“Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.”

But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Then the angel said to her,

“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.

He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever,

and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

But Mary said to the angel,

“How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?”

And the angel said to her in reply,

“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 called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.”

Mary said,

“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”

Then the angel departed from her.

Psalm Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54



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Reflection

Blessing of a Christmas Crib

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love. Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever.

Advent Litany

O Sapientia - O Wisdom, O holy word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care:

Come and show your people the way to salvation.

Come, Lord Jesus

O Adonai - O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai mountainL

Come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.

Come, Lord Jesus

O Radix Jesse - O flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; rulers stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you.

Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

Come, Lord Jesus

O Clavis David - O key of David, O royal power of Israel, controlling at your will the gate of heaven:

Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and lead your captive people into freedom.

Come, Lord Jesus

O Oriens - O radiant dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:

Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

Come, Lord Jesus

O Rex Gentium - O ruler of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart, O keystone of the mighty arch of humankind:

Come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.

Come, Lord Jesus

O Emmanuel - O Emmanuel, ruler and lawgiver, desire of the nations, savior of all people:

Come and set us free, Lord our God.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer – Collect of the Day from the Roman Missal

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN**

Blessing and Dismissal

May the light of Christ lead you to the joy of his kingdom, now and forever. **AMEN**

And may almighty God bless you all, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.