

Lighting the Advent Candles (Old Testament Year B)

This set of readings for the lighting of the Advent candles is based on the Old Testament lessons of the Revised Common Lectionary in Year B.

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.

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord!

Isaiah 40

Make a highway in the desert for our God.

From ages of old, no ear has heard, no eye has seen
one so glorious as the Lord our God, for whom we wait.

Isaiah 64

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

Every valley shall be lifted,
every mountain and hill, made low;
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

Isaiah 40

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

God's anointed one is coming —
to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and to announce the time of the Lord's favor.

Isaiah 61

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

The promise of the Lord is sure;
the realm of God will be established forever.

2 Samuel 7

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

Now a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders,
and he is called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9

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

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.

Isaiah 9