

Lighting the Advent Candles (Psalm Year B)

This set of readings for the lighting of the Advent candles is based on the Psalms 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.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

Psalm 96

**let all creation sing for joy
at the coming of the Lord.**

The Lord of hosts is coming to restore us;
God's face will shine, and we will be saved.

Psalm 80

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

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Psalm 85

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

When the Lord restores our lives,
we will be like those who dream;
those who sow in tears will reap with shouts of joy.

Psalm 126

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

We will sing of God's steadfast love forever;
we will proclaim the faithfulness of the Lord to all generations.

Psalm 89

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

Sing the Lord a new song, for God has done marvelous things.
Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

Psalm 98

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

Light dawns for the righteous, and joy to the upright in heart.
Rejoice in the Lord! Give thanks to God's holy name.

Psalm 97