

# 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent – Year B

## Youth Liturgy Of The Word

### Stay Awake



Ecard from [www.liturgyritualprayer.com](http://www.liturgyritualprayer.com)

**Please Note:** This resource may be integrated into a Eucharistic Liturgy or adapted or a School Assembly or Class Prayer.

### **Website Background & Information:**

- For online videos that may be relevant to this resource, please view our *Emmaus Online Video Library Index* on our New Resources/Calendar page by following this link: <http://liturgyritualprayer.com/new-resources>

### **Preparation for Liturgy:**

- A prayer space consisting of purple material, an Advent wreath, a cross, and a Bible/Book of the Gospels is suggested.
- Choose a Mass setting familiar with students for the Gospel Acclamation. One suggestion is the **Advent/Christmas Gospel Acclamation** (David Haas – As One Voice: Next Generation).
- Notes on the Advent Wreath:
  - The creation of the wreath could be an activity that some students are involved in, giving them ownership over the sacred space.
  - The Advent wreath should consist of three purple candles and one pink candle (and an optional white candle in the center, if desired). Other than this, the wreath can be original and at the discretion of those preparing the liturgy.
  - For example: the candles could be set amongst a bed of jacaranda, or other natives, instead of “traditional” artificial PVC evergreen; or a “nest” made out of small twigs and braches could be made that the candles rest within.

## **Introductory Rite**

### **Welcome & Introduction:**

**Leader:** Happy new year! Today we celebrate the first day in the Church’s liturgical year – the first Sunday of Advent. Like Lent, Advent is a time of waiting, thus it makes sense that these seasons share the common colour, purple. Unlike Lent, which draws us into a more somber time of preparation for the death and ultimate new life of Jesus, Advent is filled with anticipation as we await the coming of Jesus into the world.

Many of us would have already seen the Christmas decorations that fill shopping centers and streets, and have begun purchasing presents for friends and loved ones. While we look ahead with eagerness to Christmas Day, let us not lose sight of the importance of this period of preparation, and what lies at the heart of the celebration we look forward to.

I invite you to take a moment to still your minds and hearts as we begin our liturgy this morning/afternoon.

*After a period of silence, the reader continues:*

**I invite you to stand now as we join in singing our gathering hymn.**

**Gathering Hymn:**

**Come, Now is the Time to Worship** (Brian Doerksen – As One Voice: Next Gen)

**O Come Emmanuel** (Paul Baloche – Christmas Worship)

**There Is A Longing** (Anne Quigley – Spirit & Song)

**Penitential Act:**

**Leader:** With humble hearts, we call on God's love and mercy as we acknowledge our need for forgiveness.

Lord Jesus, you are the way. Lord, have mercy.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Leader:** Christ Jesus, you are the truth. Christ, have mercy.

**All:** Christ, have mercy.

**Leader:** Lord Jesus, you are the life. Lord, have mercy.

**All:** Lord, have mercy.

**Leader:** May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All:** Amen.

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath:**

**Leader:** The Advent wreath is a Christian tradition which marks the successive weeks as we gradually draw closer to the celebration of Jesus' birth.

**Today, we light our first candle in the Advent wreath.**

*As the first candle is lit, **Like a Candle** (Gina Ogilvie & Monica O'Brien – As One Voice: Next Generation) could be played.*

**Opening Prayer:**

**Leader:** Let us pray together:

**All:** Loving God,  
You sent Jesus into our world as a light to shine through the darkness.  
May Jesus' light continue to shine within us  
as we wait with anticipation for his coming into our world once again.  
We make our prayer through Jesus our Lord and our light.  
Amen.

**Liturgy Of The Word**

**First Reading:** 1 Cor 1:3-9

**Responsorial Psalm:** **Can You See God** (Chris de Silva – As One Voice: Next Gen)

**Gospel Acclamation:** **Advent/Christmas Gospel Acclamation** (David Haas – As One Voice: Next Gen)

**Gospel:** Mk 13:33-37

**Breaking Open The Word:**

Today's Gospel spells out a clear message: "stay awake". But to what? Is God going to come to earth in our lifetime heralded by choruses of angels? Today's Gospel, written for Mark's community, used language common to first century Jews. Mark's followers believed that Jesus was preparing to return physically to lead a war – in this case against Nero's empire, who had begun to persecute the early Christians. 2000 years later, we begin the season of Advent using this same call to urgency as we prepare for the coming of Jesus.

As we begin the Advent season, let us stop to ask ourselves: in what ways do we need to be prepared, and what around us might we need to be "awakened" to before we celebrate the feast of Christmas? Perhaps we need to be prepared to be more giving of our time, talents and treasures than of material goods, awakening ourselves to the greater needs of those around us; or maybe we need to be ready to let go of our own self-ambition, and place the needs of the community or others before our own.

God is present at all times and in all places. As we prepare to welcome the gift of Jesus who reveals God to us, we pray that we may always be alert and awake, so as to recognise God in the most unlikely ways.

**Prayer of The Faithful:**

**Leader:** As Advent begins, we hear Jesus challenging us to be alert and ready. Let us turn our prayers now to God with faith-filled hearts, attentive to the needs of our world.

**Reader:** For our Church as she awaits the coming of the Lord with hope and courage. We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader:** For our politicians as they act with integrity, keeping God's ways in their minds and hearts. We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader:** For those who are consumed by worldly distractions, and have lost sight of God's love and grace. We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader:** For ourselves as we prepare for the Christmas season, remembering the real reason we celebrate. We pray to the Lord.

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Leader:** Loving God, hear the prayers of your people as we wait for the coming of your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

**Concluding Rite**

**Final Prayer:**

**Leader:** Let us pray together:

**All:** Faithful God,  
You have formed us like the clay of the potter's hand  
and we give you thanks to you for all that we have.

**Bless us with the gifts of the Spirit  
so that we may be ready witnesses to the Gospel  
until at last you return to us through the gift of Jesus.  
We make this prayer in Jesus' name.  
Amen.**

**Blessing & Dismissal:**

**Leader: May almighty God bless us all, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.**

**All: Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn:**

**Sound of Hope** (Ike Ndolo – Spirit & Song)

**The Whole World Is Waiting For Love** (Marianne Missetich – As One Voice: Vol 2)

**You Are Near** (Dan Schutte – As One Voice: Next Generation)