**Processional Song: O come, O come, Emmanuel**

**[Let’s walk these special things into the living room while we sing to help us remember that we are having a special time of worshiping Jesus: a cross, an icon, a Bible]**

*O come, O come, Emmanuel*

*And ransom captive Israel*

*That mourns in lonely exile here*

*Until the Son of God appear*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel*

*Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**Opening Verse**

O Lord, open our lips,\*

**And our mouth shall show forth your praise.**

Our Sovereign and Savior draws near:

**O come, let us worship.**

**Lighting the Advent Wreath Candles**

This week we light the candle(s) of HOPE (1st week), PEACE (2nd week), JOY (3rd week), & LOVE (4th week). The light from these candles, that grow brighter every week, reminds us that:

**Jesus Christ is the light of the world!**

**Song: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus,**

*Come, thou long expected Jesus,*

*Born to set thy people free;*

*From our fears and sins release us,*

*Let us find our rest in thee.*

**Reading: A Psalm**

|  |
| --- |
| *Read selections from psalm 27 on waiting and trusting on the Lord select a different psalm (such as psalm about the messianic king like 2; 8; 16; 22*; *40; 41; 45; 68; 69; 72; 89; 91; 102; 109; 110; or118).* |

#### Psalm 27 verses 1,5,13-14 NIV

**1**The Lord is my light and my salvation—  
    whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life—  
    of whom shall I be afraid?

**5**For in the day of trouble  
    he will keep me safe in his dwelling;  
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent  
    and set me high upon a rock.

**13**I remain confident of this:  
    I will see the goodness of the Lord  
    in the land of the living.  
**14**Wait for the Lord;  
    be strong and take heart  
    and wait for the Lord.

**Song: Of the Father's Love Begotten**

*Of the Father's love begotten*

*ere the worlds began to be,*

*he is Alpha and Omega —*

*he the source, the ending he,*

*of the things that are, that have been,*

*and that future years shall see*

*evermore and evermore.*

**Reading: Gospel of St. Luke**

|  |
| --- |
| *Read the Gospel passage below, or select one of the Gospel Lectionary Readings for the week. I like to use blocks and peg people and our nativity set to act out the story while another adult reads it (or we listen to an audio recording). Then I retell the story again in my own words, again using the figures to portray the action, stopping to ask reflection questions about what the people might be feeling or wondering.* |

**{Week 1}**

**5**During the time Herod ruled Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah. He belonged to Abijah’s group. Zechariah’s wife came from the family of Aaron. Her name was Elizabeth. **6**Zechariah and Elizabeth truly did what God said was good. They did everything the Lord commanded and told people to do. They were without fault in keeping his law. **7**But Zechariah and Elizabeth had no children. Elizabeth could not have a baby; and both of them were very old.

**8**Zechariah was serving as a priest before God for his group. It was his group’s time to serve. **9**According to the custom of the priests, he was chosen to go into the Temple of the Lord and burn incense. **10**There were a great many people outside praying at the time the incense was offered. **11**Then, on the right side of the incense table, an angel of the Lord came and stood before Zechariah. **12**When he saw the angel, Zechariah was confused and frightened. **13**But the angel said to him, “Zechariah, don’t be afraid. Your prayer has been heard by God. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give birth to a son. You will name him John. **14**You will be very happy. Many people will be happy because of his birth. **15**John will be a great man for the Lord. He will never drink wine or beer. Even at the time John is born, he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. **16**He will help many people of Israel return to the Lord their God. **17**He himself will go first before the Lord. John will be powerful in spirit like Elijah. He will make peace between fathers and their children. He will bring those who are not obeying God back to the right way of thinking. He will make people ready for the coming of the Lord.”

**18**Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I know that what you say is true? I am an old man, and my wife is old, too.”

**19**The angel answered him, “I am Gabriel. I stand before God. God sent me to talk to you and to tell you this good news. **20**Now, listen! You will not be able to talk until the day these things happen. You will lose your speech because you did not believe what I told you. But these things will really happen.”

**21**Outside, the people were still waiting for Zechariah. They were surprised that he was staying so long in the Temple. **22**Then Zechariah came outside, but he could not speak to them. So they knew that he had seen a vision in the Temple. Zechariah could not speak. He could only make signs to them. **23**When his time of service as a priest was finished, he went home.

**24**Later, Zechariah’s wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant. She did not go out of her house for five months. Elizabeth said, **25**“Look what the Lord has done for me! My people were ashamed of me, but now the Lord has taken away that shame.”

**{Week 2}**

**26-27**During Elizabeth’s sixth month of pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin who lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. Her name was Mary. **28**The angel came to her and said, “Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you.”

**29**But Mary was very confused by what the angel said. Mary wondered, “What does this mean?”

**30**The angel said to her, “Don’t be afraid, Mary, because God is pleased with you. **31**Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. **32**He will be great, and people will call him the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of King David, his ancestor. **33**He will rule over the people of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never end.”

**34**Mary said to the angel, “How will this happen? I am a virgin!”

**35**The angel said to Mary, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God. **36**Now listen! Elizabeth, your relative, is very old. But she is also pregnant with a son. Everyone thought she could not have a baby, but she has been pregnant for six months. **37**God can do everything!”

**38**Mary said, “I am the servant girl of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!” Then the angel went away.

**{Week 3}**

**39**Mary got up and went quickly to a town in the mountains of Judea. **40**She went to Zechariah’s house and greeted Elizabeth. **41**When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the unborn baby inside Elizabeth jumped. Then Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. **42**She cried out in a loud voice, “God has blessed you more than any other woman. And God has blessed the baby which you will give birth to. **43**You are the mother of my Lord, and you have come to me! Why has something so good happened to me? **44**When I heard your voice, the baby inside me jumped with joy. **45**You are blessed because you believed what the Lord said to you would really happen.”

**46**Then Mary said,

*“My soul praises the Lord;****47****my heart is happy because God is my Savior.****48****I am not important, but God has shown his care for me, his servant girl.  
From now on, all people will say that I am blessed,****49****because the Powerful One has done great things for me.  
    His name is holy.****50****God will always give mercy  
    to those who worship him.****51****God’s arm is strong.  
    He scatters the people who are proud  
    and think great things about themselves.****52****God brings down rulers from their thrones,  
    and he raises up the humble.****53****God fills the hungry with good things,  
    but he sends the rich away with nothing.****54****God has helped his people Israel who serve him.  
    He gave them his mercy.****55****God has done what he promised to our ancestors,  
    to Abraham and to his children forever.”*

**56**Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

**{Week 4}**

**57**When it was time for Elizabeth to give birth, she had a boy. **58**Her neighbors and relatives heard how good the Lord was to her, and they rejoiced.

**59**When the baby was eight days old, they came to circumcise him. They wanted to name him Zechariah because this was his father’s name. **60**But his mother said, “No! He will be named John.”

**61**The people said to Elizabeth, “But no one in your family has this name!” **62**Then they made signs to his father, “What would you like to name him?”

**63**Zechariah asked for something to write on. Then he wrote, “His name is John.” Everyone was surprised. **64**Then Zechariah could talk again. He began to praise God. **65**And all their neighbors became alarmed. In all the mountains of Judea people continued talking about all these things. **66**The people who heard about these things wondered about them. They thought, “What will this child be?” They said this because the Lord was with him.

**67**Then Zechariah, John’s father, was filled with the Holy Spirit. He told the people what would happen:

**68***“Let us thank the Lord, the God of Israel.  
    God has come to help his people and has given them freedom.****69****God has given us a powerful Savior  
    from the family of God’s servant David.****70****God said that he would do this.  
    He said it through his holy prophets who lived long ago.****71****God will save us from our enemies  
    and from the power of all those who hate us.****72****God said he would give mercy to our ancestors.  
    And he remembered his holy promise.****73****God promised Abraham, our father,****74****that he would free us from the power of our enemies,  
    so that we could serve him without fear.****75****We will be righteous and holy before God as long as we live.*

***76****“Now you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High God.  
You will go first before the Lord  
    to prepare the people for his coming.****77****You will make his people know that they will be saved.  
    They will be saved by having their sins forgiven.****78****With the loving mercy of our God,  
    a new day from heaven will shine upon us.****79****God will help those who live in darkness,  
    in the fear of death.  
He will guide us into the path that goes toward peace.”*

**80**And so the child grew up and became strong in spirit. John lived away from other people until the time when he came out to preach to Israel.

**Song: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence*

*And with fear and trembling stand;*

*Ponder nothing earthly-minded,*

*For with blessing in his hand*

*Christ our God to earth descendeth,*

*Our full homage to demand.*

**Prayer: The Apostle’s Creed (stand & with hand motions)**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spiritand born of the Virgin Mary.He suffered under Pontius Pilate,was crucified, died, and was buried.He descended to the dead.On the third day he rose again.He ascended into heaven,and is seated at the right hand of the Father*.* He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,the holy catholic Church,the communion of saints,the forgiveness of sins*,* the resurrection of the body,and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Confession Prayer: (Toddler A.C.T.S. Prayer while kneeling)**

Dear Jesus,

I love you.

I'm sorry for my bad choices, please change my heart so I only want good things.

Thank you for being with me and thank you for

Please help

Amen.

**Song: Wait on the Lord**

*Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.*

*Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.*

**Prayer: Prayers of the People (5-Finger Prayer)**

**Confession Prayer: (Kneeling)**

Dear Jesus,

I love you.

I'm sorry for my bad choices, please change my heart so I only want good things.

Thank you for always being with me and thank you for (*give thanks for a specific blessing or answer to prayer)*

Please help (*pray for a specific need)*

Amen.

**Prayer: Prayers of the People (Sitting & 5-Finger Prayer)**

Dear God,

(thumb: those closest to you)

Thank you for our *family*. Please bless them and care for them. Help us to love each other as you love us.

*Lord in your mercy,* ***hear our prayer.***

(pointer: those that point you in the right direction)

Thank you for our *teachers and pastors* who teach us to follow you. Please bless them and help them teach as you taught.

*Lord in your mercy,* ***hear our prayer.***

(middle: tallest finger for those who lead us)

Thank you for our *bishops, governor, and president.* Please bless them and help them lead as you led.

*Lord in your mercy,* ***hear our prayer.***

(ring: weakest finger)

Please be with all the *poor, needy and hurting* people. Please bless them, help them, heal them, and let us be a part of caring for them body and soul.

*Lord in your mercy,* ***hear our prayer.***

(pinkie: smallest finger): for ourselves and our needs:

Thank you that you are always with *us* and take care of us. Please help us come to you with all our needs and listen and trust you because you love us.

*Lord in your mercy,* ***hear our prayer.***

**Laying Hands and Praying for Each Person: A time for a short prayer for each person present concluding with**

*Lord in your mercy,* ***hear our prayer.***

**Song: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming*

*From tender stem hath sprung!*

*Of Jesse's lineage coming,*

*As men of old have sung.*

*It came, a flow'ret bright,*

*Amid the cold of winter*

*When half-spent was the night.*

**Prayer: *Collects for Advent (Book of Common Prayer)***

**First Sunday of Advent:** Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**Second Sunday of Advent**: Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**Third Sunday of Advent**: Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**: Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.  
*Amen.*

**Prayer: The Lord’s Prayer:**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Song: Doxology**

*Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

**Closing Blessing**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**Thanks Be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Recessional Song: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

*O come, O come, Emmanuel*

*And ransom captive Israel*

*That mourns in lonely exile here*

*Until the Son of God appear*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel*

*Shall Come to You O Israel*