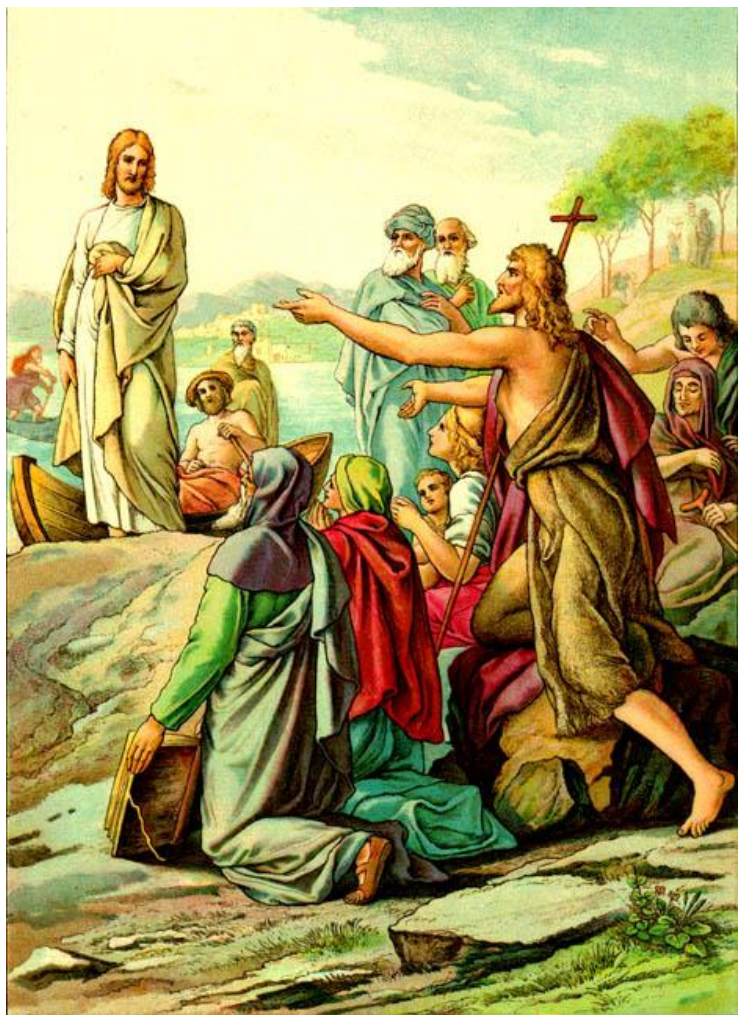


# Family Vigil for the Advent Season



## **Saturday Family Vigil on the Sabbath Day**

*Most of us are aware of the Commandment that requires man to keep a Sabbath unto the Lord, the seventh day of rest that commemorates God's own resting after six days of Creation. In keeping the Sabbath man proclaims Almighty God as Creator, and further, he demonstrates his own dependence upon the Lord for his sustenance and his very life.*

*But we must also realize that the Sabbath does not begin when we arise on Sunday morning; rather, it commences at twilight on Saturday evening. Thus, even at this time, this early, all busyness and commotion should be set aside, as we begin to prepare ourselves for the great occasion to come in a few hours: God and man will dine together at table!*

*The Saturday Vigil is a kind of firstfruit of our Sabbath day; the initial portion of it offered to God. As such, it should be participated in by the entire family, as a way to heighten anticipation and even understanding of that which will happen in the morning.*

*Usually our Saturday nights are filled with many plans and activities. Ideally, these things are best done on what the Jewish people called "the day of preparation", which would be for us from Friday evening until Saturday before dark. How pleasing to God would it be if we could reserve all our other activities for this time, and dedicate the Sabbath - **all** of the Sabbath - to God and His Kingdom!*

*Many might think this peculiar, but is this not the kind of people the Lord calls us to be? What a great witness of our Divine Peculiarity such a keeping of the Sabbath might be to the people in our neighborhoods and communities!*

*The Vigil is held at the family altar or at the dining area or at some convenient place in the house.*

## **The Acclamation**

Father: Blessed be the holy, eternal, and undivided Trinity:  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Members:** *And blessed be His glorious Kingdom, tonight and  
always, throughout all ages. Amen.*

## **Summary of the Law**

Father: Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

*(All kneel)*

## **The Act of Penitence**

Father: The scripture bids us: Watch! We know neither the day nor the hour when the Son of Man will come. Let us prepare for that Coming by examining our lives and by confessing our sins to God in true repentance.

*(Time of silence for examination of conscience, then all say together the following confession:)*

**All:** *Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against You through our own fault. We have wavered in our love for You; we have put our own interests above that of all others; and we have not lived out the full reality of Christ in us. Forgive us and cleanse us, O faithful and righteous God, that we may continually walk in the light of Your fellowship. Amen.*

## Absolution

Father: The Almighty and Merciful Lord, for the sake of the Blood of the Cross of His Son Jesus Christ, has laid not our sins to our charge, but has forgiven us all that is past.

He has granted us the grace to put away the evil and to cling to the good, that we may walk with perfect hearts before Him all our days. **Amen.**

*(All stand)*

Father: The Lord is with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Father: Let us pray.

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to Your promises: the earth rejoices in the hope of the Savior's coming again and looks forward with longing to the promised Day of His return.

May we prepare our hearts to meet Him, and remove every obstacle that may hinder us from receiving Him as our long-awaited Savior and King. Grant that every eye may soon behold His reign of justice and peace; through Him Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Lighting of the Candle(s) on the Advent Wreath

*The Advent wreath is a visual symbol marking the progress of the Season of Advent. If there is an Advent wreath in the home, the designated candle(s) on the wreath is (are) now lit as the family sings an Advent Hymn.*

*If there is no Advent wreath, candles may be lit at the dining table, or at some convenient place. Lighted candles may be distributed to the members of the household, again to the singing of a song.*

## The Collect

Father: Let us pray.  
Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us 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 quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit.

*All: Amen.*

*(All sit)*

## Reading of the Sunday Gospel

*Other members of the household may be assigned to read the Sunday Gospel and Psalm.*

**November 27, the 1st Sunday of Advent - Matthew 24 : 37-44**

**December 4, the 2nd Sunday of Advent - Matthew 3 : 1-12**

**December 11, the 3rd Sunday of Advent - Matthew 11 : 2-11**

**December 18, the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - Matthew 1: 18-25**

*(A time of silent meditation follows, then the Responsorial Psalm is read)*

## Reading of the Sunday Psalm or Canticle

**November 27, the 1st Sunday of Advent - Psalm 122**

**December 4, the 2nd Sunday of Advent - Psalm 72 : 1-8**

**December 11, the 3rd Sunday of Advent - Psalm 146**

**December 18, the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - Psalm 80: 1-7; 16-19**

## Reflection

*(The Father may assign other members of the household to give a short reflection, or a group discussion may take place at this time)*

*(All stand; a song or chorus may be sung, if desired)*

## **The Litanies**

*(Other members of the household may be assigned to lead in the Litanies)*

Leader: Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

**All:** *Rescue us, save us, keep us, O Lord by Your grace.*

Leader: A night serene, holy and peaceful;

**All:** *Grant us, O Lord.*

Leader: The angel of peace to watch over us;

**All:** *Grant us, O Lord.*

Leader: The pardon and forgiveness of our sins;

**All:** *Grant us, O Lord.*

Leader: The bond of love in the unity of Your Spirit;

**All:** *Grant us, O Lord.*

Leader: Peace in these our days;

**All:** *Grant us, O Lord.*

Leader: Thy sure defense against all evil;

**All:** *Grant us, O Lord.*

Leader: A death in the communion of Your Church and the vision of Your glory;

**All:** *Grant us, O Lord.*

Leader: Calling to remembrance all the saints in heaven and on earth, we commend ourselves, each other, and all our lives unto You, O Lover of Man:

**All:** *To You, through Your only Son, in the unity of Your Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

## The Lord's Prayer

Father: Let us pray.

*(The Lord's Prayer may be sung or said)*

**All:** *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; forever and ever. Amen. ✠*

## Concluding Prayer

Father: The Lord is with you.

**Members:** *And also with you.*

Father: Let us pray.

Almighty God, as Your Son Jesus Christ at His first Advent came to seek and save the lost; may He, at His second coming in glory, find in us the fruits of the redemption which He wrought, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for all time and for all eternity. **Amen.**

## Prayer of Preparation

**All:** *O God of salvation and lover of all people, we pray that when we gather together in the communion of the Holy Spirit to celebrate the divine liturgy in Your Sanctuary tomorrow, our service may be found acceptable to You and worthy of Your greatness.*

*Fill us with Your heavenly grace as we partake of the heavenly and life-giving mysteries of the Body and Blood of Your Son; for the glory of Your Kingdom. Amen.*

## **Proclamation and Blessing**

Father: O Incarnate Word of the Father,

**Members:** *Lord Jesus, come!*

Father: O Judge of all the world.

**Members:** *Lord Jesus, come!*

Father: O our Merciful Redeemer.

**Members:** *Lord Jesus, come soon!*

Father: The Almighty God grant us to watch and wait in peace for the appearing of His Christ.

**Members:** *Amen.*

*(All kneel. Silence is kept for a time)*