

II. ORDER OF BLESSING WITHIN A CELEBRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

1521 The present order may be used by a priest or a deacon, and also by a layperson, who follows the rites and prayers designated for a lay minister.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

1522 When the community has gathered, the minister says:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All make the sign of the cross and reply:

Amen.

1523 A minister who is a priest or deacon greets those present in the following or other suitable words, taken mainly from sacred Scripture.

May God, who enlightens every heart, be with you.

And all reply:

And also with you.

1524 A lay minister greets those present in the following words:

Let us praise God, who enlightens every heart, now and for ever.

R. Amen.

1525 In the following or similar words, the minister prepares those present for the blessing.

My brothers and sisters, today we begin the season of Advent. We open our hearts to God's love as we prepare of this wreath remind us that Jesus Christ came to conquer the darkness of sin and to lead us into the light of his glorious kingdom.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

1526 A reader, another person present, or the minister reads a text of sacred Scripture.

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah:

9:1-2, 5-6

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom
a light has shone.
You have brought them abundant joy
and great rejoicing,
As they rejoice before you as at the harvest,
as men make merry when dividing spoils.
For a child is born to us, a son is given us;
upon his shoulder dominion rests.
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.
His dominion is vast
and forever peaceful,
From David's throne, and over his kingdom,
which he confirms and sustains
By judgment and justice,
both now and forever.

1527 Or:

Isaiah 63:16-17, 19; 64:2-7—*You, Lord, are our redeemer.*

Jeremiah 33:14-16—*I will cause a good seed to spring forth from David.*

1 John 1:5-7—*God is light; walk in the light.*

Matthew 1:18-25—*The birth of Jesus.*

1528 As circumstances suggest, one of the following responsorial psalms may be sung, or some other suitable song.

R. Lord, make us turn to you, and we shall be saved.

Psalm 80

**O shepherd of Israel, hearken,
O guide of the flock of Joseph!
From your throne upon the cherubim, shine forth
before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh. *R.***

**Once again, O LORD of hosts,
look down from heaven, and see;
Take care of this vine,
and protect what your right hand has planted,
the son of man whom you yourself made strong. *R.***

**May your help be with the man of your right hand,
with the son of man whom you yourself made strong.
Then we will no more withdraw from you;
give us new life, and we will call upon your name. *R.***

Psalm 8:2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8-9

R. (v. 2) O Lord, our Lord, how great is your name over
all the earth.

1529 As circumstances suggest, the minister may give those present a brief explanation of the biblical text, so that they may understand through faith the meaning of the celebration.

INTERCESSIONS

1530 The intercessions are then said. The minister introduces them and an assisting minister or one of those present announces the intentions. From the following those best suited to the occasion may be used or adapted, or other intentions that apply to the particular circumstances may be composed.

The minister says:

Christ came to bring us salvation and has promised to come again. Let us pray that we may be always ready to welcome him.

R. Come, Lord Jesus.

Assisting minister:

That the keeping of Advent may open our hearts to God's love, we pray to the Lord. *R*.

Assisting minister:

That the light of Christ may penetrate the darkness of sin, we pray to the Lord. *R*.

Assisting minister:

That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ, we pray to the Lord. *R*.

Assisting minister:

That the Christmas season may fill us with peace and joy as we strive to follow the example of Jesus, we pray to the Lord. *R*.

1531 After the intercessions the minister, in the following or similar words, invites all present to sing or say the Lord's Prayer.

With longing for the coming of God's kingdom, let us offer our prayer to the Father:

All:

Our Father . . .

PRAYER OF BLESSING

1532 A minister who is a priest or deacon says the prayer of blessing with hands outstretched; a lay minister says the prayer with hands joined.

**Lord God,
your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior,
who enlightens our hearts
and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin.**

**Pour forth your blessings upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath;
may their light reflect the splendor of Christ,
who is Lord, for ever and ever.**

R). Amen.

1533 Or:

**Lord our God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
he is the Savior of every nation.**

**Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.
May he come quickly and not delay.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R). Amen.

The first candle is lighted.

CONCLUDING RITE

1534 A minister who is a priest or deacon concludes the rite by saying:

May the light of Christ lead you to the joy of his kingdom,
now and for ever.

R). Amen.

Then he blesses all present.

And may almighty God bless you all,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

R). Amen.

1535 A lay minister concludes the rite by signing himself or herself with
the sign of the cross and saying:

May the light of Christ lead us to the joy of his kingdom,
now and for ever.

R). Amen.

1536 It is preferable to end the celebration with a suitable song.

III. SHORTER RITE

1537 All make the sign of cross as the minister says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

All reply:

Who made heaven and earth.

1538 One of those present or the minister reads a text of sacred Scripture,
for example:

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the prophet
Isaiah: 9:1-2, 5-6

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom
a light has shone.
You have brought them abundant joy
and great rejoicing,
As they rejoice before you as at the harvest,
as men make merry when dividing spoils.
For a child is born to us, a son is given us;
upon his shoulder dominion rests.
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.
His dominion is vast
and forever peaceful,
From David's throne, and over his kingdom,
which he confirms and sustains
By judgment and justice,
both now and forever.

1539 A minister who is a priest or deacon says the prayer of blessing with hands outstretched; a lay minister says the prayer with hands joined.

Lord God,
your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior,
who enlightens our hearts
and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin.

Pour forth your blessings upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath;
may their light reflect the splendor of Christ,
who is Lord, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

1540 Or:

**Lord our God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
he is the Savior of every nation.**

**Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.
May he come quickly and not delay.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.