# A Series of Special Services for Advent









WEEK 1: RISING LIGHT WEEK 2: REFLECTED LIGHT WEEK 3: HEALING LIGHT WEEK 4: ETERNAL LIGHT

### WORSHIP KIT

ASN



# A Series of Special Services for Advent

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. —Isaiah 60:1

# Worship Kit

# A Series of Special Services for Advent

<b>7</b>	r \	1	
	n	$\boldsymbol{n}$	ex
Q	ш	u	UΛ

	Je ns
Inde	x
About the Series	
Newsletter/Bulletin Notices	
Week 1	
Week 2	
Week 3	
Week 4	
Music Guide	

By Reed Lessing. Cover design: Lindsay Taylor. © 2019 Creative Communications for the Parish, 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 800-325-9414. www.creativecommunications.com. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA. Purchase of this kit gives the purchaser the copyright release to use the material in any format for use in worship.

# A Series of Special Services for Advent

# About the Series

In this Advent series for traditional worship we welcome the Christ Child, who is the light of the world, arising in our lives this season. In celebration, we, in turn, shine with the light of Christ in various ways for all the world to see the brightness of his love. Each week will focus on a different aspect of the light of Christ and how we are enlightened by him throughout our lives. The theme verse for the entire series is: "Arise, shine, for your light has come" (Isaiah 60:1). Hymns in the series include "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus," "Arise, O Christian People," "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" and "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates."

**Week 1: Rising Light** (Isaiah 60:1): Living in the light of Jesus, we prepare to celebrate his birth. Repenting of our sins, we put away the works of darkness and dress in the armor of light.

**Week 2: Reflected Light** (Zechariah 9:16): During Advent we remember the birth of Jesus, the Light of the world. We reflect his light in our daily lives.

**Week 3: Healing Light** (Malachi 4:2): With repentant joy we anticipate the birth of our Savior. We listen to his Word and live according to it until he comes again.

**Week 4: Eternal Light** (Daniel 12:3): We look forward to Jesus' Second Advent, when we will be raised in glory to live in his presence and shine like stars forever. Come, Lord Jesus!

Each service features a sermon, a children's message and prayers, along with newsletter/bulletin notices about the series.

The kit includes everything you need for each service as well as a CD-ROM (Mac/PC) with the text of the entire kit in .rtf (rich text format), newsletter/bulletin notices, hymns, visual media recommendations, contemporary music song suggestions and PowerPoint documents of all the services with images and text (along with a copyright release) for use on screens.

#### Ordering Information

Pre-printed bulletins, blank bulletins, and several other resources are available. Call Creative Communications for the Parish at 1-800-325-9414, or visit us on the web at www. creativecommunications.com for current pricing and availability.

Printed bulletins Order Codes: Service 1 (Rising Light) ASNA Service 2 (Reflected Light) ASNB Service 3 (Healing Light) ASNC Service 4 (Etermal Light) ASND

Blank 8 1/2" x 11" bulletins Order Codes: Service 1 (Rising Light) ASNE Service 2 (Reflected Light) ASNF Service 3 (Healing Light) ASNG Service 4 (Eternal Light) ASNH

Blank 8 1/2" x 14" bulletins Order Codes: Service 1 (Rising Light) ASNJ Service 2 (Reflected Light) ASNK Service 3 (Healing Light) ASNL Service 4 (Eternal Light) ASNM

Promotional posters (set of 3) 11" x 17". ASNPR

Bulletin insert. 5 3/8" x 8 3/8" ASNBL

Bookmark. 2 1/2" x 7". ASNBK

Promotional postcard. 4 1/4" x 5 1/2". ASNPC

Signature collection ASNSK

Complete collection ASNCK

ons

# A Series of Special Services for Advent

# Week 1: Rising Light

# Newsletter Notice

Join us for our Advent worship series, Arise and Shine. Each week will focus on a different aspect of the light of Christ and how we are enlightened by him throughout our lives. In our worship for the first week in Advent we will celebrate the rising light. Repenting of our sins, we put away the works of darkness and dress in the armor of light.

## **Bulletin Notice**

Welcome to our Advent worship series, Arise and Shine. Each week in this series focuses on a different aspect of the light of Christ and how we are enlightened by him throughout our lives. In our worship for today we celebrate the rising light. Repenting of our sins, we put away the works of darkness and dress in the armor of light.

# A Series of Special Services for Advent

# Week 2: Reflected Light

# Newsletter Notice

Join us for our Advent worship series, Arise and Shine. Each week will focus on a different aspect of the light of Christ and how we are enlightened by him throughout our lives. In our worship for the second week in Advent we will celebrate Jesus as the Light of the world and how we reflect his light in our daily lives.

# **Bulletin Notice**

Welcome to our Advent worship series, Arise and Shine. Each week in this series focuses on a different aspect of the light of Christ and how we are enlightened by him throughout our lives. In our worship for today we celebrate Jesus as the Light of the world and how we reflect his light in our daily lives.

# A Series of Special Services for Advent

Week 3: Healing Light

# Newsletter Notice

Join us for our Advent worship series, Arise and Shine. Each week will focus on a different aspect of the light of Christ and how we are enlightened by him throughout our lives. In our worship for the third week in Advent we anticipate with repentant joy the birth of our Savior, listen to his Word and seek to live according to it until he comes again.

## **Bulletin Notice**

Welcome to our Advent worship series, Arise and Shine. Each week in this series focuses on a different aspect of the light of Christ and how we are enlightened by him throughout our lives. In our worship for today we anticipate with repentant joy the birth of our Savior, listen to his Word and seek to live according to it until he comes again.

# A Series of Special Services for Advent

Week 4: Eternal Light

# Newsletter Notice

Join us for our Advent worship series, Arise and Shine. Each week will focus on a different aspect of the light of Christ and how we are enlightened by him throughout our lives. In our worship for the fourth week in Advent we look forward to Jesus' Second Advent, when we will be raised in glory to live in his presence and shine like stars forever.

# **Bulletin Notice**

Welcome to our Advent worship series, Arise and Shine. Each week in this series focuses on a different aspect of the light of Christ and how we are enlightened by him throughout our lives. In our worship for today we look forward to Jesus' Second Advent, when we will be raised in glory to live in his presence and shine like stars forever.

# A Series of Special Services for Advent

# Week 2: Reflected Light

# Order of Service

Like jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land. Zechariah 9:16

Invocation and Call to Worship

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C Amen.
- P Arise, shine, for your light has come!
- **G** And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!
- **P** Let your light shine before others,
- **G** So that they may see your good works—
- P And give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

#### **C** We proclaim the praises of him,

P Who called us out of darkness—

#### **G** Into his marvelous light!

Hymn ...... Arise, O Christian People (Aus Meines Herzens Grunde 76 76 67 76)

Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today; Prepare to greet the Savior, who takes your sins away. To us by grace alone the truth and light were given; The promised Lord from heaven to all the world is shown.

Prepare the way before him; prepare for him the best. Cast out what would offend him, this great, this heav'nly guest. Make straight, make plain the way; the lowly valleys raising, The heights of pride abasing, his path all even lay.

The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high; Beneath his feet in terror the haughty soul shall lie. The heart sincere and right, that heeds God's invitation And makes true preparation—it is the Lord's delight.

Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; turn not from me aside, And help me to receive you this blessed Advent-tide From stall and manger low, come now to dwell within me; I'll sing your praises gladly and forth your glory show.

Confession and Absolution

P Heavenly Father, it is only because of your promises of light in Christ Jesus that we come before you, pleading for mercy.

#### **G** Forgive the darkness within me, and the darkness that surrounds me.

**P** Forgive my many failures to shine with Christ's love and live as the light of the world.

G Forgive the harsh judgments I make of others, and the leniency I show myself.

P Forgive the lies I tell others and the truths I avoid for myself.

#### **G** Forgive the pain I cause others and the indulgence I show myself.

▶ Dear friends in Christ, I have great news for you! Your Father in heaven accepts Christ's worthiness for your unworthiness, his sinlessness for your transgressions, his purity for your

uncleanness and his blazing light for your deep darkness. It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves—it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast. Arise, shine, for your light has come!

#### **G** And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

Prayer of the Day

#### Children's Message

Old Testament Reading	
Epistle Reading	Philippians 2:14-16
Gospel Reading	
Hymn	Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness (St. Crispin LM)

Jesus, thy blood and righteousness my beauty are, my glorious dress; Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, with joy shall I lift up my head.

Bold shall I stand in that great day, cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay; Fully absolved through these I am from sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

Lord, I believe thy precious blood, which at the mercy seat of God Pleads for the captives' liberty, was also shed in love for me.

Jesus, be endless praise to thee, whose boundless mercy hath for me, For me, and all thy hands have made, an everlasting ransom paid.

Sermon

#### Offering

#### Prayers

P Father in heaven, you are so good, you are so faithful, and you love us so extravagantly and passionately! Empower us to believe that,

#### **G** Beauty loves the beast.

 $\mathbb{P}$  You make us beautiful. Empower us to see ourselves through your eyes.

#### **G** Beauty loves the beast.

P You make us beautiful. Help us to focus on you and on the forgiveness we have in Christ.

#### **G** Beauty loves the beast.

P You make us beautiful. Send your Holy Spirit so we believe and receive this promise, that we shall shine like the jewels of a crown.

#### **G** Beauty loves the beast.

P You will make us beautiful, shining like jewels, in your presence forever.

#### **C** Amen.

#### Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P Arise, shine, for your light has come!

#### • And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

**P** Let your light shine before others,

#### **G** So that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven!

Hymn ......Comfort, Comfort Ye My People (Freu Dich Sehr 87 87 77 88)

"Comfort, comfort, ye my people, speak ye peace," thus saith our God; "Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrows' load. Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her sins I cover and her warfare now is over."

Yea, her sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed; All that well deserved his anger he no more will see or heed. She hath suffered many a day, now her griefs have passed away; God will change her pining sadness into ever-springing gladness.

Hark, the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near, Calling sinners to repentance, since the Kingdom now is here. O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way; Let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked; make the rougher places plain. Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad, And all flesh shall see the token that his Word is never broken.

nns

# A Series of Special Services for Advent

# Week 2: Reflected Light

# Complete Script for Worship Leaders

• If desired, an **Environmental Projection** is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

https://www.istockphoto.com/photo/burring-candles-on-decorative-glassgm943675586-257820189

• This **Theme Verse** can be read by the pastor alone or in unison with the congregation at the start of the service, or can be read silently by the congregation before the service begins:

Like jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land. Zechariah 9:16

- The **Invocation and Call to Worship** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:
- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

#### C Amen.

P Arise, shine, for your light has come!

#### • And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

**P** Let your light shine before others,

#### **G** So that they may see your good works—

P And give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

#### **O** We proclaim the praises of him,

P Who called us out of darkness—

#### **G** Into his marvelous light!

• The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Aus Meines Herzens Grunde 76 76 67 76:

Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today; Prepare to greet the Savior, who takes your sins away. To us by grace alone the truth and light were given; The promised Lord from heaven to all the world is shown.

Prepare the way before him; prepare for him the best. Cast out what would offend him, this great, this heav'nly guest. Make straight, make plain the way; the lowly valleys raising, The heights of pride abasing, his path all even lay.

The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high; Beneath his feet in terror the haughty soul shall lie. The heart sincere and right, that heeds God's invitation And makes true preparation—it is the Lord's delight.

Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; turn not from me aside, And help me to receive you this blessed Advent-tide From stall and manger low, come now to dwell within me; I'll sing your praises gladly and forth your glory show.

- The **Confession and Absolution** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:
- P Heavenly Father, it is only because of your promises of light in Christ Jesus that we come before you, pleading for mercy.

#### **G** Forgive the darkness within me, and the darkness that surrounds me.

**P** Forgive my many failures to shine with Christ's love and live as the light of the world.

#### **G** Forgive the harsh judgments I make of others, and the leniency I show myself.

**P** Forgive the lies I tell others and the truths I avoid for myself.

#### **G** Forgive the pain I cause others and the indulgence I show myself.

Dear friends in Christ, I have great news for you! Your Father in heaven accepts Christ's worthiness for your unworthiness, his sinlessness for your transgressions, his purity for your uncleanness and his blazing light for your deep darkness. It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves—it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast. Arise, shine, for your light has come!

#### G And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you!

- The **Prayer of the Day** is read by the pastor:
- P Gracious God, you sent your Son to be the light of the world. Enlighten our darkness through his presence so we also shine as lights, holding out the Word of life that overflows with grace and mercy for all people; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
- The Children's Message is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:
- P Has anyone ever seen jewels in a crown? Close your eyes and listen closely as I describe these jewels for you. When the light shines on them, the jewels create beautiful colors—red, orange, yellow, blue, green and purple. It is an amazing burst of beauty! Just imagine! Jewels in a crown!

Now you may open your eyes. What if there was no light? What if I had an awesome crown of jewels and placed it in a dark closet, a dark basement or a dark garage? Then what? There would be no color! Without the light, jewels have no color, no brilliance and no beauty! Do we have any color, brilliance or beauty when we're in the darkness of sin and selfishness? Not at all! We need the light to shine. Who is our light? Jesus!

Jesus knows all about crowns—but I am not talking about crowns with jewels. Do you remember? Jesus wore a crown of thorns. His enemies put a crown of thorns on his head and then killed him. After that, they didn't put Jesus in a closet or basement or garage. They did put Jesus in a place where there was no light—it was a tomb, like a cave in a mountain. Then they closed the tomb with a big rock!

But Jesus rose from the dead! He is alive! Jesus is the Light of the world! When we come to church and experience Christ's light, we begin to sparkle and shine like jewels in a crown. How amazing is that? It's what the Bible says, "Like jewels in a crown they shall shine." We shine when we say "please" and "thank you." We shine like dazzling jewels when we obey our parents and teachers. We are full of color and beauty when we say our prayers and love our brothers and sisters.

Look! I can see it now! Because of Jesus' light, you are all jewels in a crown! Look at the amazing burst of beauty!

Jesus, you wore a crown of thorns when you died to save us. When you rose from the dead, you were crowned with glory. Help us to shine like jewels in a crown, sharing your love in everything we do and say. Amen.

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Zechariah 9:14-17, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
- Then the Lord will appear over them, and his arrow will go forth like lightning; the Lord God will sound the trumpet and will march forth in the whirlwinds of the south. The Lord of hosts will protect them, and they shall devour, and tread down the sling stones, and they shall drink and roar as if drunk with wine, and be full like a bowl, drenched like the corners of the altar. On that day the Lord their God will save them, as the flock of his people; for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land. For how great is his goodness, and how great his beauty! Grain shall make the young men flourish, and new wine the young women.
- The **Epistle Reading**, Philippians 2:14-16, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
- ▶ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

- The **Gospel Reading**, Matthew 5:13-16, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
- P You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
- A Hymn is sung by the congregation to the tune St. Crispin LM:

Jesus, thy blood and righteousness my beauty are, my glorious dress; Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, with joy shall I lift up my head.

Bold shall I stand in that great day, cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay; Fully absolved through these I am from sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

Lord, I believe thy precious blood, which at the mercy seat of God Pleads for the captives' liberty, was also shed in love for me.

Jesus, be endless praise to thee, whose boundless mercy hath for me, For me, and all thy hands have made, an everlasting ransom paid.

• If desired, this **Mini Movie** (purchased by you from Worship House Media: worshiphousemedia.com) is presented on a screen at this time to highlight the theme of the service:

https://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/59056/lights

- The **Sermon** is delivered by the pastor:
- P There was a time when he was a young, handsome prince, living in his stately castle. But that was before the curse. The enchantress, disguised as an old beggar woman, turned him into an ugly animal and changed all his servants into household items. Their names are now famous—Lumiere, Cogsworth, Mrs. Potts and the little teacup named Chip. What did they call the prince? Beast. *The Beast!* Why? Because he was repugnant and repulsive, hideous and homely. So ashamed, the Beast hid in his castle, secluding himself from everyone and everything. But all that changed one day when a sweet young lady named Belle came strolling along and into his life. Beauty loves the Beast and the Beast becomes beautiful.

Have you ever felt like the Beast? Rejected, alone and living in the shadows? Sure you have. So have I. Frequently we run to our castle and hide so no one can see the ugly mess we make of our lives.

The Old Testament prophet Zechariah knew all about ugly messes. Living in the Persian province of Judah toward the end of the sixth century B.C., Zechariah was overwhelmed with spiritual messes. Joshua, the High Priest, is wearing filthy garments (Zechariah 3:3). The prophet sees a vision that includes a woman stuck in something like a garbage can (Zechariah 5:7). Zechariah describes Philistines with "blood in their mouths and abominations between their teeth" (Zechariah 9:7). The prophet writes, "The cedar has fallen, the glorious trees are ruined!" (Zechariah 11:2). The beast fills the book of Zechariah!

It is hard to find a page in the Bible where the beast doesn't appear. Cain murders Abel. Saul hunts down David. One Herod kills babies while another Herod beheads John the Baptist. Pilate washes his hands of the whole mess. Even the sweet psalmist Asaph (who wrote twelve psalms), readily admits in Psalm 73:22, "I was senseless and ignorant, I was a brute beast before you."

Although we have a million and one ways to deny the reality, a brute beast lives in us all. We become rude, defiant, angry and ugly. Losing our temper, we spew forth venomous words—making a mess of everything. Vowing to change, a week later we explode again in a savage frenzy. Think I'm overstating the case? Dare right now to look into your thoughts, ponder the pattern your life has been weaving. Sometimes, it can get ugly, can't it? Really, really ugly.

Thank God for Zechariah 9:16, "On that day the LORD their God will save them, as the flock of his people; for like the jewels of a crown they shall shine on his land." Talk about a total makeover! Beauty loves the Beast and the Beast becomes beautiful. Beautiful, indeed! God calls his people jewels on a crown shining in the land. By God's grace, we let our light shine before others so that they may see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven. By God's grace, we refuse to quarrel and complain and so we shine like stars in the heavens. By God's grace, we no longer walk in darkness but radiate with the light of the Lord!

Too bad Zechariah's story doesn't end there. The beast reared his ugly head again and this time his goal was singular; take the most beautiful person ever and make him totally repulsive. True, Zechariah envisions Christ, our King, riding into Jerusalem on a donkey on Palm Sunday, righteous and having salvation. Yet Zechariah also prophecies that four days after Palm Sunday Christ will be sold for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12–13). Christ will be struck down and the sheep will scatter (Zechariah 13:7). The prophet foresees Christ on Good Friday, pierced with a spear (Zechariah 12:10). It got ugly, didn't it? Really, really ugly. The crown of thorns left deep gashes on Jesus' head. Nails disfigured his body. Words collapse before the sheer atrocity of it all.

Joseph of Arimathea buried Jesus in his tomb. But three days later, early in the morning, some women arrived, and the tomb was empty! Peter and John ran to the tomb and they also found



• The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Aus Meines Herzens Grunde 76 76 67 76:

Arise, O Christian people! Prepare yourselves today; Prepare to greet the Savior, who takes your sins away. To us by grace alone the truth and light were given; The promised Lord from heaven to all the world is shown.

Prepare the way before him; prepare for him the best. Cast out what would offend him, this great, this heav'nly guest. Make straight, make plain the way; the lowly valleys raising, The heights of pride abasing, his path all even lay.

The humble heart and lowly God raises up on high; Beneath his feet in terror the haughty soul shall lie. The heart sincere and right, that heeds God's invitation And makes true preparation—it is the Lord's delight.

Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus; turn not from me aside, And help me to receive you this blessed Advent-tide From stall and manger low, come now to dwell within me; I'll sing your praises gladly and forth your glory show.

# A Series of Special Services for Advent

# Week 2: Reflected Light

# **Contemporary Music Song Suggestions**

• The following song suggestions can be used for a more contemporary worship service in place of the more traditional hymns included in this kit. Rights to use these songs in the service must be purchased by your parish through CCLI or other copyright licensing agencies.

"Lord Reign in Me" by Brenton Brown

"Shine on Us" by Deborah D. Smith and Michael W. Smith

"Shine" by Marc James and Tre Sheppard

"Shine Your Light on Us" by Chase Jenkins, Dan Hamilton, Robbie Seay, Ryan Owens and Taylor Johson

"Light of the World" by Lauren Daigle, Paul Duncan and Paul Mabury

"Light" by Calie Garrett

"Let There Be Light" by Brooke Ligertwood, Joel Houston, Jonas Myrin, Matt Crocker, Michael Guy Chislett and Scott Ligertwood

"Light a Candle" by Joel Lindsey and Wayne Haun