

Daily Prayer

Second Sunday of Advent Year A,
The Year of Luke; Jubilee Year 2025



Readings: Isaiah 11: 1–10; Psalm 71: 1–2, 7–8, 12–13, 17; Romans 15: 4–9; Matthew 3: 1–12.

Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope

Source: [Jubilee Resource Pack for Parishes](#)

Jubilee years are a time of newness. They have been celebrated throughout the history of the Church, but their roots go back to the Old Testament, when the Israelites were commanded to celebrate a jubilee every 50 years...

Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop used to say: 'We are but travellers here.' For the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on what it means to be pilgrims of hope: a people who are not only travellers here but walking in joyful anticipation of 'the heavenly goal to which we have been called' (SNC §25).

Pope Francis believed that, in today's world, hope suffers; that too many people have been robbed by cynicism and despair. During Jubilee 2025, he wanted everyone to have 'an intense experience of the love of God that awakens in hearts the sure hope of salvation in Christ' (SNC §6). Only this hope—born from knowing that nothing can separate us from God's love (Rom 8:35-39)—can breathe life back into weary souls.

This hope is not optimism. It is not a forced positivity in the face of hardship and evil. It is a grace from God, a trust in the Lord's promises: that he is good, that he is merciful, and that we are journeying towards the one who says, 'Look, I am making everything new' (Rev 21:5).



For this reason, the most striking part of the logo for this jubilee is the cross: bending towards humanity and forming an anchor, it depicts the cross as something to cling to, especially in rough seas. It is a contemporary 'riff' on an old biblical image. The epistle to the Hebrews describes the hope we have in Christ as 'an anchor of the soul, as sure as it is firm' (6:19).

The cross is not a dead symbol from the past. It is a living sign of God's unfathomable love, and one that carries us together in pilgrimage towards heaven.

Preparations for Daily Prayer

The following daily prayers can be used in their entirety or adapted to meet the needs of the audience. The prayers draw on the Sunday readings, so you may use any of the prayers on any day, although special focus will be given to Feast days, Solemnities, and days of special cultural significance. Feel free to adapt the prayers for special occasions or specific intentions of your own class and school.

The prayers will introduce students to traditional prayer and liturgical practices and responses, as well as a variety of Christian spiritual experiences. Take the opportunity to create a Sacred Space for prayer as you might do in creating a protected garden. This may include a prayer cloth or placemat, a bible, a crucifix, a candle, and flowers. Additional resources (apps, websites, music, videos) will be suggested for those wanting to enrich the prayers or to understand the readings at a deeper level.



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The Year of Matthew

The Gospel readings for this Year A are taken from the Gospel of Matthew, and the Church is in the Second Week of Advent Year A.

The Season of Advent

During the Season of Advent, we awaken our hearts in hope for the arrival of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem. In our liturgical prayer we can light an Advent wreath, and we can sing Christmas carols and remember that God became one of us and lived with us. Awaken your joyful hope!

Overview of the Week

Day and Liturgical Colour	Daily Prayer	Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers, and Forms of Prayer
Monday – Purple	Lighting the Second Advent Candle, <i>Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.</i>	Gospel, Prayers of Intercession, Act of Contrition.
Tuesday – White	Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary <i>Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God.</i>	Hail Mary, Respond to Scripture in song.
Wednesday – Purple	<i>The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.</i>	First Reading, Prayers of Intercession.
Thursday – Purple	<i>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another.</i>	Second Reading, <i>Lectio Divina</i> and drawing or writing a prayer response
Friday – Purple	<i>A shoot shall come from the stump of Jesse, a branch shall grow out of his roots.</i>	Imaginative prayer response to sacred art, the Jesse Tree tradition, Silent Prayer, Sign of Peace

Note that scripture quotations are from the Lectionary (*Jerusalem Bible*) or NRSV.

Suggested Teacher Background for the Readings

- Liturgy Help: [Commentaries and Homilies & Reflections](#)
- Loyola Press: [Sunday Connection](#)
- The Emmaus Series: [Sunday Reflections](#).
- Pronunciation of 'Maranatha' confirmed by a CMI staff native in Aramaic. MAH-rah-n (Lord) AH-thah (Come).



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Readings: Isaiah 11: 1–10; Psalm 71: 1–2, 7–8, 12–13, 17; Romans 15: 4–9; Matthew 3: 1–12.

Monday

Today's Daily Prayer –Lighting the Second Advent Candle.

Preparation: Today we will light the Second Advent Candle and pray while the two purple candles burn. We will listen to the Sunday Gospel and draw inspiration from the Advent prophet named John the Baptist, the son of Elizabeth and Zechariah and the cousin of Jesus. Choose a reader, someone to light the candles and audio-visual support for the song.

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.

Leader:

As we begin this time of prayer, we pause to light the Advent candle.

As the first purple candle is lit, let us still our bodies and sit in silence.

Lighting the Advent candles on the Advent wreath symbolises the coming of the light of Jesus into the world and into our hearts.

(Light candle and pause.)

Let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Leader: Today we will light our Second Advent candle.

As we watch this candle being lit, we will pray that we may be people of LOVE who walk in the light of the Lord.

As the two purple candles burn, we will remember and pray for all people in the world who are in need of LOVE.

(Light two candles in the Advent Wreath and pause.)

Advent Song

Option 1: Sing [Christ, Be Our Light](#) by Bernadette Farrell using the video clip with lyrics.

Option 2: Sing, recite or listen to [O Come, O Come, Emmanuel](#).



Advent Wreath, [St Mary's, West Chiltonington](#),
by Nick Macneill (CC0 BY-SA 2.0)

Listen



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Background to the Sunday Gospel

The main message from the Gospel is to Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. We hear a strong call to action with John the Baptist crying out, 'Prepare a way for the Lord'.

If possible, the scripture passage is to be read from a Lectionary or a Bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. *(Pause)*

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

'A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.'

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins.



The River Jordan, by Kathryn Bowden 2016

(Pause for silence.)

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Prayers of Intercession

Leader: John the Baptist encouraged and challenged the people of his time to repent and to confess their sins. Let us come to acknowledge our failings and ask for God's mercy.

Reader: For the times we have used hurtful words or body language to exclude others.

All: Lord, have mercy

Reader: For the times we have failed to speak the truth.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: For the times we have chosen to show disrespect for creation.



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All: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: For the times we have turned away from God's call to listen and pray.

All: Lord, have mercy.

(Time for silent reflection for each person to speak to God and complete the following prayer of sorrow)

For the times I have ...

All: Lord, have mercy.

Go Forth

Leader: Let us bring our prayer to a close by praying together a short Act of Contrition.

All: O my God, I am very sorry that I have sinned against you,
because you are so good, and with your help, I will not sin again. Amen.

Leader: Pope Francis told us that "with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again." [Source](#)

Let us go forth this week sharing the light of hope and message of God's love in all that we say and do.

All: God, guide us on our journey as 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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Readings: Isaiah 11: 1–10; Psalm 71: 1–2, 7–8, 12–13, 17; Romans 15: 4–9; Matthew 3: 1–12.

Tuesday

Today's Daily Prayer – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Preparation: Today we will focus on Mary, the woman who was chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus. Choose a reader, someone to light the candles and audio-visual support for the song.

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered want to include in today's prayer.

Leader: As we begin this time of prayer, we pause to light the Advent candle. As the second purple candle is lit, let us still our bodies and sit in silence.
Lighting the Advent candles on the Advent wreath symbolises the coming of the light of Jesus into the world and into our hearts.

(Light candle and pause.)

Let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Leader: Today, we especially remember Mary, the mother of Jesus, as this date is especially set aside to celebrate Mary as a woman of faith, a woman of trust and a woman of holiness. This feast recognises Mary's holiness from the very first moment of her existence. This was a very special gift from God and was God's way of preparing for the birth of her Son, Jesus. We will pray with the Gospel reading for this solemnity, the story from Luke's Gospel of the Annunciation.

Listen

If possible, the Scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the Word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.
And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to



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him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?'

The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

(Pause for silence.)

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Option 1: [Pray the Hail Mary together.](#)

Leader: Let us pray together the Hail Mary

All: Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with you;
blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of death. Amen



MARY by ZARA MAULTBY,
Saint Jude's, Langwarrin

Option 2: [Sing Hail Mary, Gentle Woman](#), by Carey Landry.

Go Forth

Leader: May we go forth trusting in the Lord as Mary did.

Pope Francis told us that "with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again." [Source](#)

Let us go forth this week sharing the light of hope and message of God's love in all that we say and do.

All: God, guide us on our journey as 'Pilgrims of Hope'.

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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Readings: Isaiah 11: 1–10; Psalm 71: 1–2, 7–8, 12–13, 17; Romans 15: 4–9; Matthew 3: 1–12.

Wednesday

Today's Daily Prayer – Isaiah shares a vision of a time of peace

Preparation: Today we will pray Prayers of Intercession in response to the first reading where Isaiah paints a picture for us of God's dream for all to live in peace and harmony. Choose a reader, someone to light the candles and a copy of the prayer to support the Response.

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.

Leader: As we begin this time of prayer, we pause to light the Second Advent candle. As the two purple candles are lit, we will still our bodies and sit in silence. Lighting the Advent candles on the Advent wreath symbolises the coming of the light of Jesus into the world and into our hearts.

(Light candle and pause.)

Let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Let us pray with the mantra or prayer word Maranatha (phonetically MAH-rah-n AH-thah) and allow this to become our Breath Prayer.

MAH (Breathe in) RAHN (Breathe out) (meaning Lord)

AH (Breathe in) THAH (Breathe out) (meaning Come)

Let us repeat this three times.

Listen

Leader: In this reading, Isaiah describes a peaceful Kingdom where there is peace and harmony among all of creation. Isaiah encourages the reader to dream God's dream of a world at peace; a world where enemies are reconciled and children play in safety; a world where the poor and the powerless know and experience justice. Once again Isaiah tells about God's holy mountain as a place where there will be no destruction or hurt. Let us prepare to listen to the word of God. *(Pause)*



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If possible, the Scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the Word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Reader: A reading from the book of Isaiah.

The wolf lives with the lamb,
the panther lies down with the kid,
calf and lion cub feed together
with a little boy to lead them.
The cow and the bear make friends,
their young lie down together.
The lion eats straw like the ox.
The infant plays over the cobra's hole;
into the viper's lair
the young child puts his hand.
They do no hurt, no harm,
on all my holy mountain,
for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters swell the sea.

(Pause)

All: The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



Peace, by Liz West from [Flickr](#) (CC BY 2.0)

Respond

Prayers of Intercession

Leader: Let us place before our God of Peace our own needs and the needs of the whole world.

Reader: For the Church and its leaders called to teach God's word and proclaim God's dream of peace to all: we pray to the Lord.

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

Reader: For peace in our broken world; for victims of war and violence and for all who work for peace: we pray to the Lord.

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

Reader: For harmony and reconciliation among all people and nations: we pray to the Lord.

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



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Reader: For the poor and the homeless, the sick and the suffering, and for the safety of all who work to bring them peace and comfort: we pray to the Lord.

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

Reader: For all gathered here, may we know the peace of God in our hearts, our homes and our community. We pray to the Lord.

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

Leader: We make these prayers through Christ, our Lord

All: **Amen.**

Go Forth

Leader: May we live peacefully and prayerfully as we prepare to celebrate Christmas.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: Pope Francis told us that “with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again.” [Source](#) Let us go forth this week sharing the light of hope and message of God’s love in all that we say and do.

All: **God, guide us on our journey as ‘Pilgrims of Hope’.**

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



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Readings: Isaiah 11: 1–10; Psalm 71: 1–2, 7–8, 12–13, 17; Romans 15: 4–9; Matthew 3: 1–12.

Thursday

Today's Daily Prayer – Listening to the words of Saint Paul.

Preparation: Today we will pray with the second reading, which is from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans. Choose a reader, someone to light the candles. You will need materials for prayer writing in the Respond section.

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

Leader: As we begin this time of prayer, we pause to light the Second Advent candle.

As the two purple candles are lit, we will still our bodies and sit in silence.

Lighting the Advent candles on the Advent wreath symbolises the coming of the light of Jesus into the world and into our hearts.

(Light candle and pause.)

Let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Let us pray with the mantra or prayer word Maranatha (phonetically MAH-rah-n AH-thah) and allow this to become our Breath Prayer.

MAH (Breathe in) RAHN (Breathe out) (meaning Lord)

AH (Breathe in) THAH (Breathe out) (meaning Come)

Let us repeat this three times.

Listen

Leader: Paul writes to the Romans telling them to live by the lessons found in the Scripture. He encourages them to never give up, to be tolerant, friendly and welcoming so that they might live in harmony with one another. These are good recommendations for people living today.

Let us prepare to listen to the Word of God. *(Pause)*



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If possible, the scripture passage is to be read from a Lectionary or a Bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Reader: A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Everything that was written long ago in the Scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples Scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you.

(Pause)

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Respond

Lectio Divina and Prayer Writing

(Those gathered will require materials for writing and/or drawing their response.)

Leader: Choose one of the key words from this short reading, e.g. hope, harmony, welcome, encouragement, steadfastness.

Write this word carefully on a sticky-note, a piece of coloured paper or in a Prayer Journal.

Take time to think about this word and what it means for you in your family or school community.

Draw or write a prayer using the word you have chosen.

Keep these prayers to pray throughout the day or week.

(Time for silent prayer)

Go Forth

Leader: May the God of steadfastness and encouragement help us to live in harmony with one another.

Leader: Pope Francis told us that "with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again." [Source](#)

Let us go forth this week sharing the light of hope and message of God's love in all that we say and do.



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All: God, guide us on our journey as ‘Pilgrims of Hope’.

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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Readings: Isaiah 11: 1–10; Psalm 71: 1–2, 7–8, 12–13, 17; Romans 15: 4–9; Matthew 3: 1–12.

Friday

Today's Daily Prayer – Arts and Faith & the Jesse Tree

Preparation: During Advent we will be invited each week to deepen our prayer experience of Advent by praying with the [Arts and Faith Series](#) from Loyola Press. These provide us with a video commentary about a work of art inspired by the Sunday Scriptures. They will assist and guide us to look more deeply at this season of hope and preparation through the lens of sacred art. Choose a reader, someone to light the candles and audio-visual support for the song. Those gathered will require materials for writing and/or drawing their response.

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell or a chime to begin.

Leader: As we begin this time of prayer, we pause to light the Second Advent candle.
As the two purple candles are lit, we will still our bodies and sit in silence.
Lighting the Advent candles on the Advent wreath symbolises the coming of the light of Jesus into the world and into our hearts.

(Light candle and pause.)

Let us make the Sign of the Cross reverently and mindfully.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Let us pray with the mantra or prayer word Maranatha (phonetically MAH-rah-n AH-thah) and allow this to become our Breath Prayer.

MAH (Breathe in)

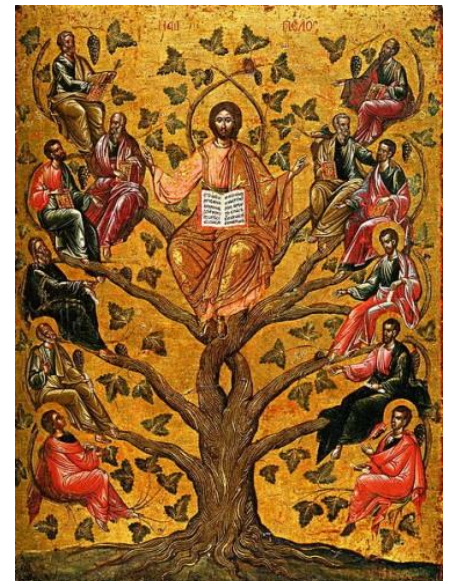
RAHN (Breathe out) (meaning

Lord)

AH (Breathe in)

THAH (Breathe out) (meaning Come)

Let us repeat this three times.



*Christ the True Vine, 16th century icon in the Byzantine & Christian Museum, Athens.
Image from [Wikipedia](#) (Public Domain)*

Listen

[Background to the Jesse Tree](#)



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Leader: One of the traditions of the Advent season is to decorate a Jesse tree. It is a little like the custom of decorating a Christmas tree, except that the Jesse tree is decorated with symbols that represent the people who waited for the coming of a Messiah and the events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The name comes from Jesse, who was the father of the Jewish King David. The prophet Isaiah writes about the Jesse tree. A branch is a sign of new life and new beginnings. Jesus was a descendant of King David and Christians believe that Jesus is this new branch. The first Jesse trees were large carvings, tapestries or even stained glass windows in churches as visuals that helped people to learn about the Bible. Nowadays Jesse Trees are similar to an Advent Calendar. Each day through Advent (or sometimes just on the four Sundays of Advent) a special decoration or symbol is hung on the tree.

Leader: Let us prepare to listen to the word of God. *(Pause)*

If possible, the scripture passage is to be read from a Lectionary or a Bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Reader: A reading from the book of Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out of the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

(Pause)

The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Respond

The Jesse Tree

(Those gathered will require materials for writing and/or drawing their response.)

Leader: We will watch and listen to a reflection based on a masterpiece titled '[Hamburg Altar \(The Tree of Jesse\)](#)', painted by Absolon Stumme in 1499.

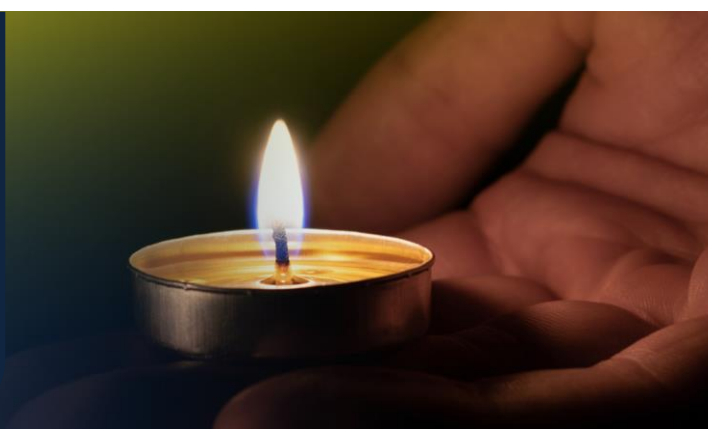
Think about your family members, both past and present. Who are these people who have and still do belong to the generations of your family?

Use your pencil to sketch a tree with many branches. Draw the faces of people in your family, both past and present, on the branches of your tree.



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What are past family members remembered for?

What are the beliefs and values that past family members have passed on?

What gifts do present family members share? What beliefs and values do they pass on?

Write a prayer of thanksgiving for your family and the story that they have created and are still creating.

(Time for silent reflection)

Go Forth

Leader: May the Spirit of the Lord rest upon us and all members of our families.

Pope Francis told us that “with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again.” [Source](#)

Let us go forth this week sharing the light of hope and message of God’s love in all that we say and do.

All: **God, guide us on our journey as ‘Pilgrims of Hope’.**

Leader: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord in your life.

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

(Extinguish candle and pause.)

Suggested Additional Resources

Information on the [Jesse tree](#) and its symbols for each week of Advent.

