

**First Week of Advent: Prayer****Theme: Let us be the source
of hope for the poor**

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Preparation: Keep the Advent Wreath ready with four candles (3 purple and one pink) at a prominent place.

Introduction: (In the background soft Instrumental music to be played). “Today is the first Sunday of Advent. It is ‘The Week of Hope’. The Word Advent means an anticipation of the arrival of a person or an event. Advent is the season that reminds us of an arrival of something great. It is the beginning of ‘The New Liturgical Year’ and also a beginning of a Spiritual journey for each one of us. The promise God made about our salvation for has arrived. This promise is true hope beyond any other Hope.

Reader 1: Our hope is in God and in his son Jesus Christ. Jesus, the one appointed by God to be judge over all things. He is the one through whom God has promised salvation to his people.

Reader 2: (soft instrumental music) We light this candle today to remind us that Jesus is the hope of the world. We thank God for the promises that he has made for us and for the light brought into this world.

(H.M to light the first candle and the carol to be played or can be sung and should go on for a while. *Lord Jesus Come* (<http://youtube.be/3wFE0muUzw8>))

Word of God: Is. 11:1-11

Reflection: Isaiah is the first prophet to announce the Messiah, who would bring a kingdom of love, justice and peace. For generations families waited and hoped for this Saviour King to be born into the world. Even today there are many for whom this saving king is yet to be born.

Prayers of the Faithful:

Your Response: O Lord, Hear us.

1. We pray now for the needs of all those who wait for the light of Christ, for our love and for our work for justice and peace. **(R).**
2. Lord, our broken world waits for you. In the darkness of winter, we choose hope, trusting in your promise to bless us with your light. **(R).**
3. Lord we proclaim, “Our Saviour draws near.” God of goodness and love, we thank you for your promises. We welcome your coming into our lives. **(R).**
4. Lord, we commit ourselves to be a means of your coming to those in need. For this we pray to the Lord. **(R).**

Concluding Prayer: Heavenly Father, help us to share what we have with others during this holy season. May we keep our minds and hearts on the coming of your kingdom now and always. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN

Hymn: (can be sung or played.) Come, Emmanuel, Come, W.J.L. E – 25, pg. 174.