

ADVENT WREATH AND JESSE TREE CELEBRATION -WEEK TWO – PREPARING



Leader: We gather today to celebrate the second week of Advent. As we light two candles on our Advent wreath, let us recall that Jesus is the “Light of the World.” Advent is the time when we prepare for the coming of the Lord. In prayer we wait for the birth of Jesus in our lives and the final coming of the lord in glory. May we be filled with hope as we prepare.

Candle lighter: **(Lighting two purple candles)** Lord, we look forward to Christmas and the joy it brings. Help us to share our happiness with others during this Advent season.

All: We give you thanks and praise.

Leader: Let us begin our celebration by singing: “Every Valley.”

All: **Chorus:**

Ev’ry valley shall be exalted and ev’ry hill made low.
And all god’s people shall se together the glory of the Lord.

Verse 1

A voice cries out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the lord.
Make straight in the desert a highway, a highway for our God.”

Chorus:

Reader 1: A voice cries, “Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord.” (Isaiah 40)

Reader 2: So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without stain so that he will find you at peace. (2 Peter)

Reader 3: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries out in the wilderness: “Prepare a way for the Lord; make his paths straight...” and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. (Mark 1)

Leader: During Advent, people make Jesse Trees. They are something like family trees in that they tell about Jesus’ heritage from the line of David, son of Jesse. Our Jesse Tree activity today reminds us how important people

prior to Jesus prepared the way for his coming. We are reminded that each person's way of living adds something special to Jesus' coming.

(Students from each class bring forth symbols and hang them on the Jesse Tree. The Jesse Tree could be a dead branch of a tree or made out of cardboard, or whatever the catechist wishes.)

Leader: O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign for all people. You from whom Jesus descends, be with us as we heed the herald's voice crying in the desert. Help us to make ready the way of the Lord, to clear him a straight path.

All: **Chorus: Ev'ry Valley...**

Verse:

Comfort all my people;
The time for war is gone.
The blind shall see;
The deaf shall hear;
The lame shall jump for joy.

Chorus:

Ev'ry valley shall be exalted and ev'ry hill made low.
And all God's people shall see together the glory of the Lord.