

Advent 2024
Presiders, Acolytes, Lectors, Cantors,
Accompanists: Take heed!
Gathering & Entrance Procession
for Advent Liturgies

1. Before liturgy begins, presider and one acolyte (if there are two) are seated in their usual chairs.
2. Ambo candles are lit as usual. Processional cross remains behind altar.
3. Other acolyte recruits an individual or family to light Advent candle(s).
4. Acolyte, candle lighter and first reader wait in narthex. (Second reader is seated.) Acolyte gives taper to candle lighter and lector/deacon) has Book of the Gospel.
5. Cantor greets assembly, then invites everyone to pray silently for a few moments (about one minute – that can feel like a long time!).
6. After a few moments of silent prayer, cantor cues accompanist to begin playing one instrumental verse and refrain of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”.
There is no movement yet.
7. Still seated, the assembly starts singing “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”.
8. While assembly is singing (but not before) and with book held high, the lector/deacon begins slowly processing towards altar, goes up ramp on right side of altar, places the book in the holder on the altar, exits to his/her left and waits at the foot of the altar platform until the acolyte and candle lighter have joined them for the bow of reverence to the altar.
9. When lector/deacon reaches the altar ramp, acolyte leads candle lighter slowly up aisle to the altar platform. They bow to altar and then process to front ambo candle. The candle lighter lights the taper from the ambo candle and is led by acolyte up steps on left side of altar platform and lights Advent candle(s).
10. After lighting Advent candle(s), acolyte and candle lighter exits the altar platform and join the lector/deacon for the bow of reverence to the altar. They then return to their seats.
11. After all of these actions are done, presider invites all to rise for conclusion of song.
12. The Gloria is omitted during Advent.
13. The Advent/Christmas Gospel Acclamation is used. The verse numbers are matched with the Sundays of Advent (first Sunday, verse 1; second Sunday, verse 2; etc.). Repeat the verse proper to the Sunday as needed to accompany the gospel book procession to the ambo.
14. The rest of the liturgy is the same as during Ordinary Time.