Outline of Advent Meal Blessing or Lighting of Wreath

Greeting (Leader of Prayer) “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” [Make the Sign of the Cross.]

(All) Amen.

Opening Prayer (Leader)

(All) Amen.

Scripture Reading (Reader)

[Silence, or reflection (over)]

Lighting of the fourth candle (Member of Family as Leader prays)

Prayers of the Faithful [invite all present to make petitions to the Lord.]

(Person praying:) “we pray to the Lord.”

(All) Come, Lord and save us.

The Lord’s Prayer (Leader) “Gathering all our prayers and praise into one we pray in the words our saviour gave us.”

(All) Our Father…

Sign of Peace (Leader) “Let us offer each other a sign of peace.”

(All) Peace be with you.
Now to my soul, the timorous and small
House of a Presence that it cannot see
And frightened acre of a Deity,
Say in the fullness of thy clemency:
I have enclosed thee all.
Thou art in whiteness of a lighted lamb wool,
Thou art in softness of a summer wind lull.
O hut of God, hush thine anxiety.
Enfolded in this motherhood of mine
All that is beautiful and all divine
Is safe in thee.

Jessica Powers, *The Place of Splendor*

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Prayer and Scripture for Week IV

Opening Prayer: Almighty God, your Spirit filled Elizabeth and moved her to proclaim the mighty work of salvation you were accomplishing in Jesus, through Mary. May our hearts be open to welcome the coming of Christ in our day. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Reading: From the Book of Wisdom (7:26-30)

For she [Wisdom] is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of his goodness. Although she is but one, she can do all things, and while remaining in herself, she renews all things; in every generation she passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God, and prophets; for God loves nothing so much as the person who lives with wisdom. She is more beautiful than the sun, and excels every constellation of the stars. Compared with the light she is found to be superior, for it is succeeded by the night, but against wisdom evil does not prevail.

*The Word of the Lord.* Thanks be to God.

Lighting of the Candle:

[As the fourth candle is lit] Come, Lord Jesus! Your Spirit led Elizabeth and John to sing your praise. Renew your people by your coming in the flesh, and open our lips to proclaim the Good News. You live and reign, one with the Father and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

Amen.

Alleluia! light burst from your untouched womb like a flower
on the farther side of death.
The world-tree is blossoming.
Two realms become one.

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