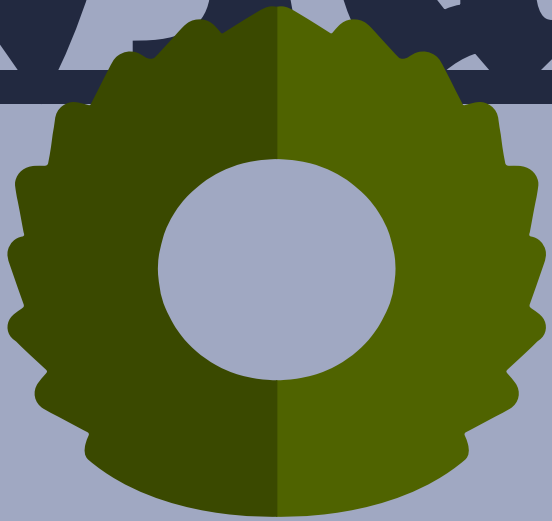


# Advent

Advent is the first season of the Christian year. Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming.” It’s a time of preparation for the celebration of Christ’s birth and the incarnation but also the anticipation of Christ’s Second Coming. Advent is a traditional season of fasting but also of hope and expectation.



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Advent Wreath started as a home devotion among early Lutherans. The modern version comes from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## Week 3

### HEAVEN or JOY

Year A Matthew 11:2-11  
Year B John 1:6-8, 19-28  
Year C Luke 3:7-18

Each Sunday’s readings have a theme. Traditionally these have been death, judgment, heaven, and hell. Another popular understanding of the themes are peace, love, joy, and hope. The third Sunday of Advent can be called *Gaudete Sunday*, from the Latin for joy. Rose or pink can replace violet this Sunday.



## Week 4

### HELL or HOPE

Year A Matthew 1:18-25  
Year B Luke 1:26-38  
Year C Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

Individuals and churches light a candle each week, culminating in the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve.

The Eastern Orthodox equivalent of Advent is the 40-day Nativity Fast.



## Week 2

### JUDGMENT or LOVE

Year A Matthew 3:1-12  
Year B Mark 1:1-18  
Year C Luke 3:1-6

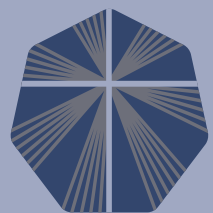
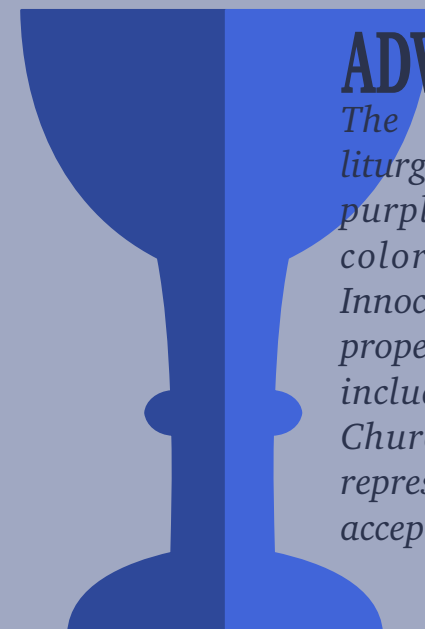
## Week 1

### DEATH or PEACE

Year A Matthew 24:36-44  
Year B Mark 13:24-37  
Year C Luke 21:25-36

## ADVENT COLORS

The traditional western liturgical color is violet/purple. However, other colors are used. Pope Innocent III declared black proper. Many traditions, including the Episcopal Church, also see blue, representing hope, as an acceptable alternative.



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