



# Catechist Resources

All Catechist Resources are available to print at [SophiaOnline.org/WalkingwithJesus](https://SophiaOnline.org/WalkingwithJesus)

## Session 6

Advent Blessing and Prayer: First Sunday of Advent..... A2

## Session 7

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## Session 9

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## Advent Blessing and Prayer: First Sunday of Advent

**Leader:** “A voice proclaims: In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! ... Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together” (Isaiah 40: 3, 5). Lord God, we gather around this wreath and wait and prepare for Your coming once again into our lives. As we light this candle, send forth Your Holy Spirit, who alone can dispel the darkness of our sin and fill us with the light of Your Son, Jesus the Christ. Bless this wreath and our lives as we wait in joyful hope for Your coming.

**All respond:** Amen.

*Light one purple candle.*

*Then pray:*

**Leader:** Jesus Christ is the light of the world. Come, Lord Jesus!

**All respond:** Come, quickly!

## Advent Blessing and Prayer: Second Sunday of Advent

**Leader:** “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who lived in a land of gloom a light has shone ... For a Child is born to us, a Son is given to us; upon His shoulder dominion rests. They name Him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9: 1, 6). Father, you loved us so much that you sent light into our darkness – your only Son Jesus. As we light this second candle tonight, may it be a reminder for us of Your everlasting love and Your promise that You will always be with us. Help us to wait with expectant hearts for the fullness of Your kingdom.

**All respond:** Amen.

*Light two purple candles tonight and each night of this second week of Advent.*

*Then pray:*

**Leader:** Jesus Christ is the light of the world. Come, Lord Jesus!

**All respond:** Come, quickly!

## Advent Blessing and Prayer: Third Sunday of Advent

**Leader:** “Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them...” (Luke 2:8,9).

Lord, as the days grow shorter and the darkness envelopes the earth, this night we light three candles as a sign of hope and joy that soon Christmas will once again be upon us. We are reminded that as You surprised the shepherds with Your glorious light, Your coming always surprises us with joy.

**All respond:** Amen.

*Light two purple candles and the pink candle tonight and each night of this third week of Advent.*

*Then pray:*

**Leader:** Jesus Christ is the light of the world. Come, Lord Jesus!

**All respond:** Come, quickly!

## Advent Blessing and Prayer: Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Leader:** “And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: ‘Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests’” (Luke 2: 13, 14). Father, as we light this fourth candle we join with the heavenly hosts giving praise to You for the gift of Your Son Jesus. He is Emmanuel – God with us! Help us in these final days of preparation to renew once again our desire to receive Jesus as the Lord and Savior of our lives. Fill us with praise as we draw near to the celebration of His birth.

**All respond:** Amen.

*Light three purple candles and the pink candle tonight and each night of this fourth week of Advent.*

*Then pray:*

**Leader:** Jesus Christ is the light of the world. Come, Lord Jesus!

**All respond:** Come, quickly!



# Christmas Play

**Special Note:** The activity for Session 9 in Grades 3-5 is a Christmas Pageant, which you may choose to have your students participate in. The script including stage direction is in 3rd - 5th grade students' workbooks and is included here as a catechist resource.

## About the Play

This play uses lines from the Gospel of Luke, and the narrator is St. Luke himself. This pageant can be expanded to include children from multiple grades. The non-speaking roles are better suited to the younger children, who should also be part of the choir.

The lyrics for the Christmas carols sung through the pageant can be found at [SophiaOnline.org/WalkingwithJesus](http://SophiaOnline.org/WalkingwithJesus). The audience of parents, catechists, and guests can be encouraged to sing. In the final song, the kings can either have a solo verse of the song, or sing the line in bold.

## Roles and Props

### Speaking Roles and Props

- St. Luke: a large book (with script pasted in) and pen (Grade 5)
- Angel Gabriel: a baby doll to use for Baby Jesus (Grade 4 or 5)
- Mary (Grade 3 or 4)
- Main Shepherd: a staff (Grade 4)
- King 1: A box with gold visible inside (Grade 5)
- King 2: A jar or, if you can use it, a boat of incense from the Church (Grade 5)
- King 3: An ornate jar or vase with a stopper. (Grade 5)

### Non-Speaking Roles and Props

- Joseph: A lantern or staff (Grade 3 or 4)
- Innkeeper: a manger, a large square bucket with straw, or blankets (Grade 3)
- Villagers (who could double as shepherds) (Grades 2-5)
- Shepherds: staffs (Grades 2-5)
- Sheep (Grades K-2)
- The Star (an angel who carries a big cardboard star on a pole) (Grade 2-5)

### Choir

- Angels: white robes and halos (K-5)

## A Christmas Play from the Gospel of Luke

*The scene opens with the shepherds, an innkeeper, and St. Luke the Evangelist in a crowd onstage.*

*All attempt to speak at once and then after a moment St. Luke moves into the center, the others move back and give him room.*

*St. Luke is distinguished from the others because he carries a large book and a pen.*

**St. Luke:** Since many people have tried to tell the story of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as those who were eyewitnesses from the beginning (*points to the shepherds*) and ministers of the word have handed them down to us, I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received.

*Everyone except St. Luke, who will be the narrator, exits.*

*St Luke stands to the left to narrate for the remainder of the play.*

*Mary enters from stage left. The Angel Gabriel will enter in a moment from stage right.*

**St. Luke:** In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David, and the virgin's name was Mary.

*Angel Gabriel enters right*

**Angel Gabriel:** Hail, Mary full of grace! The Lord is with you...do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you will call Him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

**Angel Gabriel:** Hail, Mary full of grace! The Lord is with you...do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you will call Him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High. The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

**Mary:** Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word

*Angels enter at the base of stage right and stage left. They sing "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."*

*Angel Gabriel and Mary exit the stage right.*

**St. Luke:** In those days, a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that a census of the whole world should be taken. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David.

*A crowd of villagers comes in stage left. They sit or stand around the stage, Mary and Joseph enter stage right. Joseph goes up to each villager one at a time, and each villager in turn says, "no room". Finally Joseph comes to the innkeeper.*

*The innkeeper leads Mary and Joseph up center stage. There he places a manger. The villagers exit stage right.*

**St. Luke:** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn



*The Angel Gabriel, entering from stage right, carries the baby to Mary, then joins the choir of angels at stage left.*

*The choir of angels will then sing "Silent Night."*

*While they are singing, Mary wraps baby Jesus in swaddling clothes and places him in the manger.*

*During the second verse of Silent Night, the shepherds and smaller children playing sheep approach through the audience and down the center aisle.*

*After the song, the shepherds move stage right.*

*The angels crouch down while the Angel Gabriel moves forward in front of the shepherds, preparing to speak to them.*

**St. Luke:** Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. *(The Shepherds and Sheep move down stage right)* The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. *(Shepherds fall over and to the ground)* But the angel said to them:

**Angel Gabriel:** Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy. For today in the city of David, a savior has been born for you who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

**St. Luke:** And suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host *(all the angels stand up)*, praising God and saying:

**All Angels:** "Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth."



*Angels sing the refrain from Angels We Have Heard on High, and then exit stage left.*

**St. Luke:** When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another:

**Main Shepherd:** Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.



**St. Luke:** So they went in haste and found Mary, Joseph, and the Child lying in the manger.



*Angels return to their place down stage left.*

*Shepherds move onto the stage, slowly approaching Mary. Shepherds kneel, and the choir sings, "What child is this."*

*After the song, shepherds move downstage right and wait for the kings.*

*Angel Choir and Shepherds begin to hum, "We Three Kings".*

*The Three Kings come through the center aisle and move towards St. Luke narrating on the stage, with their backs to Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus*

**St. Luke:** In the days of King Herod, Magi from the East arrived in Jerusalem, asking:

**King 1:** *(to the audience)* Where is the newborn king of the Jews? For we saw his star at its rising and have come to worship him.

*An angel holding a big star on a pole, comes in stage left, and the kings follow it over to stage right and then to Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus*

**St. Luke:** And behold, the star they had seen at its rising preceded them until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.

**St. Luke:** When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then they opened their treasure chests and offered him their gifts.



*Kings, angels and shepherds begin to sing We Three Kings*

We three kings of Orient are,  
Bearing gifts we travel so far,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

**King 1:** Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
Gold, I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign.  
*Refrain*

**King 2:** Frankincense to offer have I,  
Incense owns a Deity nigh,  
Pray'r and praising, all men raising,  
Worship Him, God most high.  
*Refrain*

**King 3:** Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume,  
Breathes of life of gathering gloom,  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.  
*Refrain*

**All:** Glorious now behold Him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice,  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Earth to heav'n replies.  
*Refrain*

**St. Luke:** Lord, now let thy servant go in peace, according to your word, For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou has prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light of revelation to the Gentiles and a glory to your people Israel.