

Christmas Celebration for the Last Week of Advent



Assemble the children in the gymnasium for a celebration of Christmas before the children are dismissed for the Christmas vacation.

OPENING HYMN: Joy To The World

OPENING PRAYER:

LEADER: The day of joy returns, Father in Heaven, and crowns another year with peace and good will. Help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wisemen. Close the doors of hate and open the doors of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil, by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our bed with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.

READING: Luke 2: 1-8

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

LEADER: Invite the children to share the meaning of Christmas for them. After everyone has made their contribution, the following could be added.

The Night Before Christmas...Sister St. Thomas, B.N.D. de N

Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the town,
St. Joseph was searching, walking up roads and down;
Our Lady was waiting, so meek and so mild,
While Joseph was seeking a place for the Child.

The children were nestled, each snug in their beds,
The grown-ups wouldn't bother, there's no room they said;
When even the innkeeper sent them away,
Joseph was wondering, where they could stay.

He thought of the caves in the side of the hills,
Let's go there said Mary, it's silent and still;
The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,
Made pathways of light for their tired feet to go;

And there in a cave, in a cradle of hay,
Our Savior was born on that first Christmas day!
The father was watching in heaven above,
He sent for His angels, His couriers of love;

More rapid than eagles God's bright angels came;
Rejoicing and eager as each heard his name;
Come Power, come Cherubs, come Virtues, come Raphael,
Come Thrones, and Dominions, come Michael and Gabriel;

Now fly to the Earth, where My poor people live,
Announce the glad tiding My Son comes to give;
The Shepherds were watching their flocks on this night,
And was in the heavens and unearthly light;

The angels assured them, they'd nothing to fear,
It's Christmas they said, the Savior is here!
They hastened to find him, and stood at the door,
Till Mary invited them in to adore;

He was swaddled in bands from His head to His feet,
Never did the Shepherds see a baby so sweet!
He spoke not a word, but the shepherds all knew,
He was telling them secrets and blessing them too;

Then softly they left Him, The Babe in the hay,
And rejoiced with great joy on that first Christmas Day;
Mary heard them exclaim as they walked up the hill,
Glory to God in the Highest, Peace to men of good will!

PETITIONS:

Student #1: Help us to celebrate the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wisemen.

ALL: Let the work of Christmas begin with me.

Student #2: Let kindness come with every gift and good wishes with every greeting.

ALL: Let the work of Christmas begin with me.

Student #3: May Christmas morning make us happy to be God's children and Christmas evening may our hearts be filled with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.

ALL: Let the work of Christmas begin with me.

HYMN #2: O Come All Ye Faithful

CLOSING PRAYER:

Santa's Prayer on Christmas Eve
By Warren D. Jennings

The sleigh was all packed, the reindeer were fed,
But Santa still knelt by the side of the bed.

"Dear Father," he prayed "Be with me tonight,
There's much work to do and my schedule is tight.

I must jump in my sleigh and streak through the sky,
Knowing full well that a reindeer can't fly.

I will visit each household before the first light,
I'll cover the work and all in one night.

With sleigh bells a-ringing, I'll land on each roof,
Amid the soft clatter of each little hoof.

To get in the house is the difficult part,
So I'll slide down the chimney of each child's heart.

My sack will hold toys to grant all their wishes,
The supply will be endless like the loaves and the fishes.

I will fill all the stockings and not leave a track.
I'll eat every cookie that is left for my snack.



I can do all these things Lord, only through You,
I just need your blessing, then it's easy to do.

And this is to honor the birth of the One,
That was sent to redeem us, Your most Holy Son.

So to all of my friends, least Your glory I rob,
Please Lord, remind them who gave me this job.

AMEN