



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
23 December 2018

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: LOVE

Theme sentence

Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.

—Luke 1.45

Prayers of Penitence at the Advent Wreath

Heavenly Father,
you exalted the humble and meek:
give us humble and contrite hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb:
be planted also in our hearts and lives.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit,
you overshadowed Mary,
that she might become the God-bearer:
fill us with your heavenly gifts.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive us our sins,
open our eyes to God's truth,
strengthen us to do God's will
and give us the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Celebrating the Gift of Peace

In the tender mercy of our God,
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Prayers at the Preparation of the Table

As this bread was scattered
and then gathered and made one,
so may your Church be gathered into your kingdom.

Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Wisdom has built her a house;
she has mixed her wine; she has set her table.

Glory to you, O God, for ever.

Blessing and Dismissal

May God the Father, judge all-merciful,
make us worthy of a place in his kingdom.

Amen.

May God the Son, coming among us in power,
reveal in our midst the promise of his glory.

Amen.

May God the Holy Spirit make us steadfast in faith,
joyful in hope and constant in love.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen

As we await our coming Saviour,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.



Through the Christmas Bowl, we heed the urgent call to bring this transformative love to the people of Syria. More than five million people have fled the devastating Syrian war and are now living as refugees, facing challenges every day.

When the war came to their city of Hama, Assala, her husband and their teenage son fled to Jordan. It took them two days to reach the border and they cried the whole way for their home and the family they had to leave behind.

Six years on and Assala still longs for her mother and sisters who remain trapped in Syria.

Today, Assala and her family live in a refugee camp outside of Amman. Their 'home' is a flimsy tent and they regularly go hungry. In the brutal winters, they huddle between the few blankets they have for warmth. It's a far cry from their happy life in Hama, where they owned a farm, sold olive oil and gathered every week for meals with their family and friends.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Love in action for Syrian refugees

Through the Christmas Bowl, we heed the urgent call to bring transformative love to the people of Syria by providing emergency food, healthcare and training for families most in need. **Please give to the Christmas Bowl today.**

CALL: 1800 025 101
VISIT: actforpeace.org.au/christmasbowl

The Christmas appeal of Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. ABN 86 619 970 188