

Advent Devotions Based on the Historic Collects

c 2000 By Rev. Paul R. Harris

Collects by Concordia Publishing House c 1982

These Advent devotions are based on the Collects we pray every Sunday Divine Service. The Collects are, for the most part, very old, predating the Lutheran Church by in some cases almost a thousand years. The sands of time have rubbed off all the excess words and phrases leaving short, terse almost, prayers. These devotions come from a larger work of mine, **Me and My Arrows - A Devotion Book for Families with Children**. I decided to write them after looking around and not finding any devotion books for families that were not basically moralistic lessons on how to be better. My family has been using these devotions throughout the year since 1999. It is my hope that your observance of Advent will be enriched by using this portion of them.

A word about using these devotions. You will notice that there are no devotions for Sundays, the Wednesdays of Advent, or for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. This is because on the days when the Church assembles the Divine Service takes the place of the family devotion. I wasn't thinking at the time I wrote these of shut-ins, those unable to come to Divine Service. For this reason I am including devotions for the first week after Christmas. This ought to provide those unable to attend Divine Services with enough devotions for those days. To help you find the right devotion remember that First Sunday in Advent is November 29. Advent II is December 6, Advent III is December 13, and Advent IV is December 20, and Christmas I is December 27.

The order of service my family uses is as follows:

Invocation - Head of house says: "In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Ghost." Family: "Amen."

Hymn of the Season - First couple of verses

Bible Reading - By one of the children

Reading of the Devotion - By head of house

Reciting of the Catechism - We have been memorizing the Catechism for 18 years now. We've been through it numerous times. It is a big help to the children in Confirmation.

Reading of the Collect - By head of house

Returning of Thanks - After the Collect the whole family says, "We thank Thee Lord for all the food, for life, health, and every good. Amen."

Benediction - Head of family says: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us all." Family: "Amen."

Hymn of the Season - Last couple of verses

I know many of you will use these devotions by yourself, but I urge you to go ahead and sing the hymns and read the Bible readings out loud. There is something "good, meet, and salutary" about speaking the Word and singing hymns out loud.

Pastor Harris