

Jesse Tree Penitential Rite

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Priest: Each Sunday during Advent we will be hanging decorations on the Jesse tree, which is essentially a family tree of Jesus. The Jesse tree also helps us to trace God's promise of a saviour as well as Christ's ancestry. It encourages us to consider our family tree of faith and to share in the waiting and hope for the promised saviour.

(Invite the assigned family for the Jesse Tree Rite)

FIRST SYMBOL

Priest: The first symbol, **the fruit tree**, takes us back to the first man and woman. God provided everything that people need to live, and for people to share what God provides.

(The symbol is hung in the tree)

Parent or Child: *As children of Adam and Eve, we sometimes turn away from the loving gaze of God. Help us to choose rightly. Give us a fresh start and walk with us during these Advent days.*

Priest: Lord, have mercy. **E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou.**

Congregation: Lord, have mercy. **E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou.**

Or sung response by the congregation: Kyrie Eleison

SECOND SYMBOL

Priest: The second symbol, **the ark**, represents Noah and his family. In a time of disaster, the family of Noah remained faithful. Noah's ark sheltered the Earth's creatures and Noah's family lived to see the rainbow promise.

(The symbol is hung in the tree)

Parent or Child: *Give us the trust and faith of Noah's family who heard your voice and prepared themselves. Help us to shelter one another and to care for God's creatures. Help us to see the rainbows of hope you have sent to light our way.*

Priest: Lord, have mercy. **E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou.**

Congregation: Lord, have mercy. **E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou.**

Or sung response by the congregation: Kyrie Eleison

THIRD SYMBOL

Priest: The next symbol, **the three angels**, reminds us of the promise that God made to Abraham and Sarah – that their descendants would outnumber the stars in the heavens.

(The symbol is hung in the tree)

Parent or child: *God of surprises, you always come to us in the form we least expect. Help us to be ready for you when you come, or better still to greet each person, each puzzle, each pain by your name.*

Priest: Christ, have mercy. **E te Karaiti, tohungia rā mātou**

Congregation: Christ, have mercy. **E te Karaiti, tohungia rā mātou**

Or sung response by the congregation: Christe Eleison

FOURTH SYMBOL

Priest: The final symbol, **the ladder**, takes us to Isaac's grandson, Jacob. Fleeing from the anger of his brother, Jacob fell asleep in the desert and had a dream. He saw a ladder connecting Earth and heaven with angels continually moving up and down the ladder.

(The symbol is hung in the tree)

Parent or child: *E te Atua, help us to remember that we are connected to you as heaven is to earth, and at the same time we are connected to one another.*

Priest: Lord, have mercy. **E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou.**

Congregation: Lord, have mercy. **E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou.**

Or sung response by the congregation: Kyrie Eleison

Priest: May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins & bring us everlasting life.

Congregation: Amen



Adam & Eve



Jacob

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(Invite the assigned family/children for the Jesse Tree Rite)

FIRST SYMBOL

Priest: The first symbol today, **Joseph's coloured coat**, takes us back to Jacob's sons, who became the founders of the twelve tribes of Israel. God guided Joseph from slave to trusted adviser. Joseph looked after his family in the spirit of mercy and compassion.

(The symbol is hung in the tree)

Parent or Child: *Lord Jesus, Joseph's coat was magnificent in its beauty. Clothe us all with an inner beauty only you can give us.*

Priest: Lord, have mercy. **E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou.**

Congregation: Lord, have mercy. **E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou.**

Or sung response by the congregation: Kyrie Eleison

SECOND SYMBOL

Priest: The second symbol, **the burning bush**, reminds us of God's call to Moses, to lead the Israelites to freedom following their enslavement by the Egyptians. God promised to be with Moses and the people always.

(The symbol is hung in the tree)

Parent or child: *Lord God, help us to be liberated from our blindness and prejudices, our fears and frailties. May the burning bush Moses witnessed remind us all of the warmth of your loving presence among us.*

Priest: Christ, have mercy. **E te Karaiti, tohungia rā mātou**

Congregation: Christ, have mercy. **E te Karaiti, tohungia rā mātou**

Or sung response by the congregation: Christe Eleison

THIRD SYMBOL

Priest: The final symbol, **the sheaf of wheat**, represents Ruth, the poor immigrant widow, who helped gather left-over grain in a newly harvested field. She married Boaz, the field's owner and as a result became the grandmother of King David.

(The symbol is hung in the tree)

Parent or Child: *Jesus, open our eyes and hearts to those who are alienated and lonely; help us to follow Ruth's example and offer them kindness and love; and in so doing, to find our true home with you.*

Priest: Lord, have mercy. **E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou.**

Congregation: Lord, have mercy. **E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou.**

Or sung response by the congregation: Kyrie Eleison

Priest: May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

Congregation: Amen



Joseph



Ruth

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(Invite the assigned family for the Jesse Tree Rite)

FIRST SYMBOL

Priest: The first symbol today is a **tree stump**, representing Jesse, the father of the young shepherd boy David. The symbol reminds us that God looks at things differently than we do...that small can become great.

(The symbol is hung in the tree)

Parent or Child: *Lord Jesus, fruit of the Tree of Jesse, come to us in our daily need. Help us treasure the small, unexpected miracles and allow nothing to separate us from you.*

Priest: Lord, have mercy. **E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou.**

Congregation: Lord, have mercy. **E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou.**

Or sung response by the congregation: Kyrie Eleison

SECOND SYMBOL

Priest: The next symbol reminds us of King David the great leader, and whose greatest love was God the Good Shepherd.

(The symbol is hung in the tree)

We Pray: *E te Atua, when we look at the **crown**, help us to be faith-filled. Remind us that in spite of our mistakes, no one who hopes in you will ever be abandoned.*

Priest: Lord, have mercy. **E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou.**

Congregation: Lord, have mercy. **E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou.**

Or sung response by the congregation: Kyrie Eleison

THIRD SYMBOL

Priest: The next symbol is the **temple** of Solomon, son of David. He built God a house which was a place of prayer and sacrifice. Solomon asked God for wisdom – a share in God's own heart and mind.

(The symbol is hung in the tree)

Parent or child: *Holy Spirit, fill us with wisdom and love. Make your home in us that we may build a lasting temple in our hearts.*

Priest: Christ, have mercy. *E te Karaiti, tohungia rā mātou*

Congregation: Christ, have mercy. *E te Karaiti, tohungia rā mātou*

Or sung response by the congregation: Christe Eleison

FOURTH SYMBOL

Priest: The final symbol today is the **whale**, reminding us of the prophet Jonah. God sent a big fish to underlie God's message that everyone belongs to God's family and that God's love is stronger than death.

(The symbol is hung in the tree)

Parent or child: *E te Atua, Jonah had a tough time inside the whale, but he emerged a better person. Care for us through our difficult and challenging times and help us to grow in strength, wisdom and understanding.*

Priest: Lord, have mercy. *E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou.*

Congregation: Lord, have mercy. *E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou.*

Or sung response by the congregation: Kyrie Eleison

Priest: May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

Congregation: Amen



Jesse



Jonah

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

(Invite the assigned family for the Jesse Tree Rite)

FIRST SYMBOL

Priest: The first symbol of the **scallop shell and three water drops** today, reminds us of John the Baptist - a prophet who told people to prepare themselves for the coming of God's promised king. The shell represents baptism by water and the drops symbolize the Holy Trinity.

(The symbol is hung in the tree)

Parent or child: *E te Wairua Tapu - Holy Spirit, rain down upon us. Drench our hearts with Your life-giving love. Help us grow in ways that fully respond to your abundant grace.*

Priest: Lord, have mercy. **E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou.**

Congregation: Lord, have mercy. **E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou.**

Or sung response by the congregation: Kyrie Eleison

SECOND SYMBOL

Priest: The next symbol, the **hammer**, represents our beloved St Joseph – the doer and dreamer. Joseph cared deeply about his family and listened attentively to his heart.

(The symbol is hung in the tree)

Parent or Child: *Lord Jesus, help us to be like Joseph – hard-working, good, honest, loving and capable of heroic sacrifice. Give us Joseph's courage and hope as we take on the challenge of the everyday.*

Priest: Christ, have mercy. **E te Karaiti, tohungia rā mātou**

Congregation: Christ, have mercy. **E te Karaiti, tohungia rā mātou**

Or sung response by the congregation: Christe Eleison

THIRD SYMBOL

Priest: Our final symbol on the Jesse Tree depicts a beautiful lily representing **Mary the Mother of Jesus**. She was a young woman who believed, hoped and loved enough to say "Yes" so that the tree of Jesse could bloom.

(The symbol is hung in the tree)

Parent or Child: *E te Atua, the tree of hope is ripe and ready to burst into blossom. Remind us that we are all called to give birth to your living Word. We pray that, like Mary, we will say “Yes Lord – your will, your word, your wonder be done!”*

Priest: Lord, have mercy. **E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou.**

Congregation: Lord, have mercy. **E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou.**

Or sung response by the congregation: Kyrie Eleison

Priest: May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

Congregation: Amen



John the Baptist



Joseph



Mary

The Genealogy of Jesus as shared on Youtube set to music!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvZW58LQg_k

Acknowledgements

Adapted from “The Tree of Hope.” (1994). Franciscan Communications and St Anthony Messenger Press.

Images drawn from “Create and celebrate -The Jesse Tree.” (2020). Lion Hudson.