

Waiting for Christmas

Advent Devotions 2023



Grace Lutheran Church
Summerville, SC

Introduction

Happy Advent! In this devotional, you will find a brief form of prayer for each of the 22 days of Advent this year. Each day will include an Advent hymn, reading, and prayer for you to sing or pray by yourself or with others on this road to Christmas. There will also be accompanying daily videos on Grace's YouTube channel and Facebook page which you are welcome to check out to enrich your experience of this devotional, but they are not necessary to enjoy this booklet.

If you have an Advent wreath, you are encouraged to light the candles as you gather to read your devotion. If you do not have an Advent wreath, you can make one yourself by finding 4 candles and arranging them in a circle on your table (I made my wreath by placing a tea light in each of 4 small jars and arranging them with some greenery in the middle of my dining room table).

Feel free to use this devotion at any time of day. You may wish to start your day with this booklet, or perhaps you would like to enjoy the devotion at bedtime. Another option is to do the devotion as you gather to eat your evening meal. You can keep the candles lit as you eat, but remember to extinguish them before you leave the table.

In this season, we look forward to the coming of Christ and wait with hope for our Savior. Enjoy this time of waiting! We pray that this reflective and anticipatory season would draw you closer to Jesus and the joy of his birth.

December 3

If using an Advent wreath, light one candle for the first week of Advent.

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn 343 Prepare the Royal Highway *sts. 1, ref*



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Reading Isaiah 40:3-5

A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

Prayer

Heavenly Father, as this season of Advent begins, we thank You for sending the prophets like Isaiah to prepare the way for Your Son, Jesus. Work through our Pastor, teachers, and family in Christ to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ at Christmas and at the end of this age. Lead us to repentance and trust in You for the forgiveness of sins. In Jesus’ name we pray.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If using candles, they may be extinguished at this time.

December 4

If using an Advent wreath, light one candle for the first week of Advent.

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn 343 Prepare the Royal Highway *sts. 2, ref*



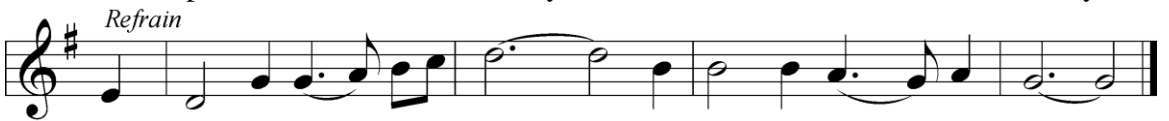
2 God's peo-ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!



Palm branch-es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar-ments! Shout and sing!



God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!



Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Reading Matthew 21:1-11

Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything

to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will send them at once.”⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,⁵ “Say to the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.’”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!”¹⁰ And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, “Who is this?”¹¹ And the crowds said, “This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.”

Prayer

Dear Jesus, Son of David, as we wait for Your arrival at Christmas, we also remember Your arrival in Jerusalem on the road to the cross. Hosanna to the Son of David! We praise You for the salvation You won for us by Your sacrifice on the cross. Thank You for saving us from our sin, from death, and from the power of the devil.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If using candles, they may be extinguished at this time.

December 5

If using an Advent wreath, light one candle for the first week of Advent.

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn 343 Prepare the Royal Highway *sts. 3, ref*

3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom-ised king!

Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.

All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!

Refrain

Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: '3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom-ised king!'. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: 'Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.'. The third staff has lyrics: 'All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!'. The fourth staff is marked 'Refrain' and has lyrics: 'Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!'. The notation includes various note values, rests, and bar lines.

Reading Psalm 24:7-10

Lift up your heads, O gates!

And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

⁸Who is this King of glory?

The Lord, strong and mighty,

the Lord, mighty in battle!
⁹ Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
¹⁰ Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory!

Prayer

Dear God, the worshipers in Psalm 24 call upon the gates of Jerusalem to lift up their heads and open for You, the King of glory. Help us, too, to rejoice in Your presence and in Your great might this Advent season. Thank you for sending Jesus and saving us by Your mighty hand.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If using candles, they may be extinguished at this time.

December 6

If using an Advent wreath, light one candle for the first week of Advent.

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn 343 Prepare the Royal Highway *sts. 4, ref*



4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Reading John 18:36-37

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." ³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the

world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”

Prayer

Dear Jesus, we confess in the catechism that Your “kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.”¹ We thank You that you continue to pour out Your Holy Spirit on us by the Word and Sacraments. We pray that Your kingdom would continue to come among us and in the hearts of all who would believe in You.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If using candles, they may be extinguished at this time.

¹ Luther’s Small Catechism, Creed, Explanation of the Second Petition

December 7

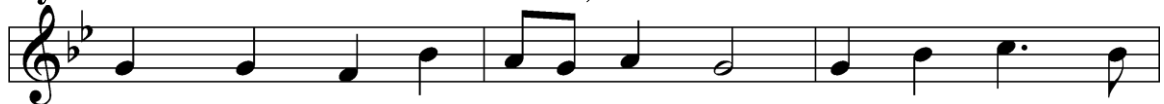
If using an Advent wreath, light one candle for the first week of Advent.

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Hymn 332 Savior of the Nations, Come *sts. 1-2*



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—



That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.

Reading John 1:1-5; 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Prayer

Savior of the Nations, we know that You are true God from eternity. Thank You for taking on flesh and coming to the manger at Christmas, bringing the light of salvation to all mankind. As we light candles and wait for the celebration of Your birth, help us to remember that You have called us out of darkness.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If using candles, they may be extinguished at this time.

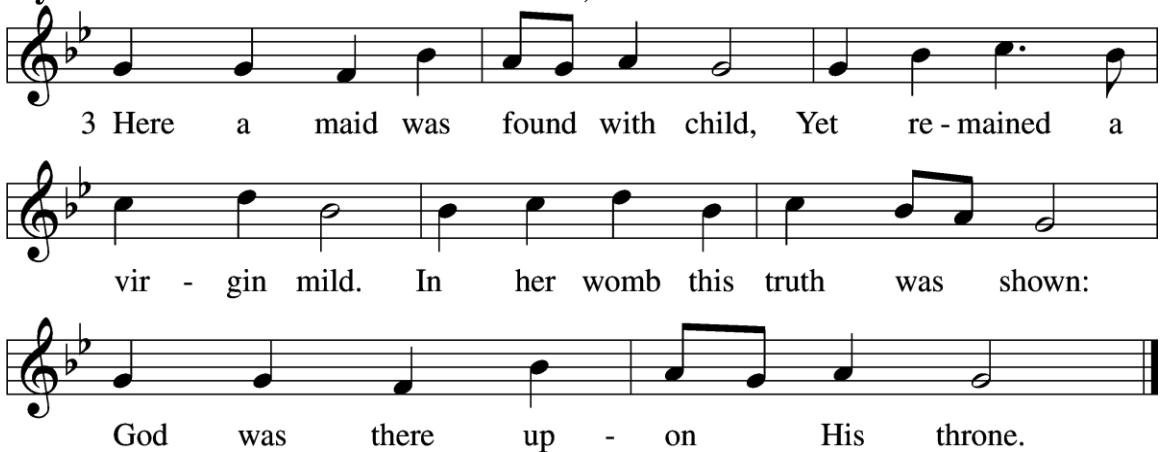
December 8

If using an Advent wreath, light one candle for the first week of Advent.

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn 332 Savior of the Nations, Come *st. 3*



3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there up - on His throne.

Reading Luke 1:26-35

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will

give to him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ And the angel answered her, “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.”

Prayer

Dearest Jesus, we thank You for descending from Your throne on high to enter into Mary’s womb and be born of a woman. Be with all unborn children and pregnant women who, like Mary, are unsure of what the future holds. Be also with each of us, as we look ahead with uncertainty to our own futures, and fill us with the certain hope of eternal life with You.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If using candles, they may be extinguished at this time.

December 9

If using an Advent wreath, light one candle for the first week of Advent.

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Hymn 332 Savior of the Nations, Come *sts. 4-6*



4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and
5 God the Fa - ther was His source, Back to God He
6 For You are the Fa - ther's Son Who in flesh the



king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,
ran His course. In - to hell His road went down,
vic - t'ry won. By Your might - y pow'r make whole



His he - ro - ic course be - gan.
Back then to His throne and crown.
All our ills of flesh and soul.

Reading Luther's Small Catechism: Second Article of the Creed
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

Prayer

Dearest Savior Jesus, we thank You this Advent not only for what You did at Christmas, but also for the work of living a sinless life, dying for us on the cross, and rising again to new life. Help us as we strive to live a life of service to You and to our neighbors out of thankfulness for the many gifts You give to us each day.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If using candles, they may be extinguished at this time.

December 10

If using an Advent wreath, light two candles for the second week of Advent.

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Hymn 332 Savior of the Nations, Come *sts. 7-8*



7 From the man - ger new - born light Shines in glo - ry
△ 8 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther sing, Glo - ry to the



through the night. Dark - ness there no more re - sides;
Son, our king, Glo - ry to the Spir - it be



In this light faith now a - bides.
Now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

Reading Luke 2:25-32

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child

Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

Prayer

Dear Jesus, Light of the World, as Simeon blessed You for revealing the light of salvation to all people, we thank You this day for enlightening us, also, with the gift of faith. Strengthen us in faith as You continue to light our way with Your Word and truth.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If using candles, they may be extinguished at this time.

December 11

If using an Advent wreath, light two candles for the second week of Advent.

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn 344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry *sts. 1-2*



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
way for God with - in, And let us all our



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.

Reading Matthew 3:1-6

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, John preached a baptism of repentance, preparing the way for the ministry of Your Son, Jesus. Thank you for giving us the gift of Baptism which grants the gift of the Holy Spirit and forgiveness of sins. Continue to work in our hearts through the same Holy Spirit and move us to a life of daily repentance and forgiveness. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If using candles, they may be extinguished at this time.

December 12

If using an Advent wreath, light two candles for the second week of Advent.

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn 344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry *sts. 3-5*



3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
△ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Reading Isaiah 40:6-7; 28-29

A voice says, "Cry!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the Lord blows on it;
surely the people are grass...

...²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, while you ministered to people on earth, you healed the sick, strengthened the weak, and raised the dead. As we start a new church year and prepare to learn about Your birth and life on this earth, help us to also look ahead to Your second coming, when all sickness will be destroyed, all weakness turned to strength, and all the faithful will be raised from death never to die again.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If using candles, they may be extinguished at this time.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, just as You came not to be served but to serve, help us to serve You by freely serving those around us. “Place firmly in our hearts both who You are and what You are so that we may proclaim Your grace and image to others.”²

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If using candles, they may be extinguished at this time.

² The Lutheran Study Bible, pg. 2034

December 14

If using an Advent wreath, light two candles for the second week of Advent.

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Hymn 331 The Advent of Our King *sts. 3-4*



3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

Reading Matthew 24:29-31

Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, help us to joyfully rise to meet You as You come to us at Christmas and every day. Protect and keep us from unbelief and work in our hearts so that we may receive Your Word in faith and share the peace and reconciliation You bring with the world around us.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If using candles, they may be extinguished at this time.

December 15

If using an Advent wreath, light two candles for the second week of Advent.

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Hymn 331 The Advent of Our King *sts. 5-6*



5 Be - fore the dawn - ing day Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
△ 6 All glo - ry to the Son, Who comes to set us free,
The sin - ful self be put a - way, The new self now put on.
With Fa - ther, Spir - it, ev - er one Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Reading Ephesians 4:17-24

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. ¹⁹ They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. ²⁰ But that is not the way you learned Christ!— ²¹ assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, ²² to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, ²³ and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we confess with Paul that “we were buried therefore with [Christ] by Baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”³ Enable us by Your Holy Spirit to live as new creations, putting away the works of darkness and walking as children of light.⁴

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If using candles, they may be extinguished at this time.

³ Romans 6:4

⁴ Ephesians 5:8

December 16

If using an Advent wreath, light two candles for the second week of Advent.

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Hymn 338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Reading Luke 1:67-75

And [John's] father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us
⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

Prayer

Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of hosts, for You have visited and redeemed Your people and raised up a horn of salvation for us. You have assured us that our final day of salvation will some day be completed, when Christ returns. Therefore, come, Lord Jesus. Come quickly!

Amen.⁵

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If using candles, they may be extinguished at this time.

⁵ The Lutheran Study Bible, pg. 1708

December 17

**This third week of Advent, our devotions will be based on the hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” and the seven ancient antiphons that were used at the evening prayer service of Vespers during the last seven days of Advent. We will sing a verse of the hymn, read Scripture concerning the antiphon for the day, and pray the antiphon as our closing prayer.*

If using an Advent wreath, light three candles for the third week of Advent.

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *sts. ref, 2*

2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Reading

Isaiah 11:2-3a

And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

Prayer – O Wisdom

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If using candles, they may be extinguished at this time.

December 18

**This third week of Advent, our devotions will be based on the hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” and the seven ancient antiphons that were used at the evening prayer service of Vespers during the last seven days of Advent. We will sing a verse of the hymn, read Scripture concerning the antiphon for the day, and pray the antiphon as our closing prayer.*

If using an Advent wreath, light three candles for the third week of Advent.

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *sts. ref, 3*

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.

Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Reading

Exodus 6:6

“Say therefore to the people of Israel, ‘I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment.’”

Prayer – O Adonai

O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai: Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If using candles, they may be extinguished at this time.

December 19

**This third week of Advent, our devotions will be based on the hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" and the seven ancient antiphons that were used at the evening prayer service of Vespers during the last seven days of Advent. We will sing a verse of the hymn, read Scripture concerning the antiphon for the day, and pray the antiphon as our closing prayer.*

If using an Advent wreath, light three candles for the third week of Advent.

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *sts. ref, 4*

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Reading Isaiah 11:1, 10

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

¹⁰ In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—
of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Prayer – O Root of Jesse

O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all
kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage: Come quickly to
deliver us.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If using candles, they may be extinguished at this time.

December 20

**This third week of Advent, our devotions will be based on the hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” and the seven ancient antiphons that were used at the evening prayer service of Vespers during the last seven days of Advent. We will sing a verse of the hymn, read Scripture concerning the antiphon for the day, and pray the antiphon as our closing prayer.*

If using an Advent wreath, light three candles for the third week of Advent.

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *sts. ref, 5*

5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen
wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that
leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.

Refrain
Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el



Reading

Isaiah 22:22; 42:6-7

And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open...

...I am the Lord; I have called you^[a] in righteousness;

I will take you by the hand and keep you;

I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

Prayer – O Key of David

O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, You open and no one can close, You close and no one can open: Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If using candles, they may be extinguished at this time.

December 21

**This third week of Advent, our devotions will be based on the hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” and the seven ancient antiphons that were used at the evening prayer service of Vespers during the last seven days of Advent. We will sing a verse of the hymn, read Scripture concerning the antiphon for the day, and pray the antiphon as our closing prayer.*

If using an Advent wreath, light three candles for the third week of Advent.

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *sts. ref, 6*

6 O come, Thou Day-spring from on high, And cheer us
by Thy draw - ing night; Dis - perse the gloom - y
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Reading Isaiah 9:2
The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
 on them has light shone.

Prayer – O Dayspring
O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting: Come and enlighten those who
sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

If using candles, they may be extinguished at this time.

December 22

**This third week of Advent, our devotions will be based on the hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” and the seven ancient antiphons that were used at the evening prayer service of Vespers during the last seven days of Advent. We will sing a verse of the hymn, read Scripture concerning the antiphon for the day, and pray the antiphon as our closing prayer.*

If using an Advent wreath, light three candles for the third week of Advent.

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *sts. ref, 7*

7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.

Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Reading Isaiah 28:16

Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, ‘Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: Whoever believes will not be in haste.’

Prayer – O King

O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people: Come and save us all, whom You formed out of clay.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If using candles, they may be extinguished at this time.

December 23

**This third week of Advent, our devotions will be based on the hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” and the seven ancient antiphons that were used at the evening prayer service of Vespers during the last seven days of Advent. We will sing a verse of the hymn, read Scripture concerning the antiphon for the day, and pray the antiphon as our closing prayer.*

If using an Advent wreath, light three candles for the third week of Advent.

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *sts. ref, 1*

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Reading

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Prayer – O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel, our king and our Lord, the anointed for the nations and their Savior: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If using candles, they may be extinguished at this time.

December 24

If using an Advent wreath, light four candles for the fourth week of Advent.

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Hymn 356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

Reading Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers,

to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

Prayer

Dearest Jesus, we praise You today with Your servant Mary. We thank you for the great things You have done for Your people throughout all time, and most especially we praise You for coming to take on human flesh, live and die in our place to secure eternal blessings far beyond what we can comprehend. Thank You for bringing us safely through this Advent season, and help us to always wait in readiness, patience, and hope for Your coming on the last day. In Your name we pray.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If using candles, they may be extinguished at this time.