

ADVENT ADVERBS: EXPECTANTLY

AS WE GATHER

For many Christian people, reading the Word of our Lord from a “red letter” edition of the Bible is a special blessing. Seeing the words of Christ highlighted in a special color may make them more immediate and noticeable. The last sentence with red words in those Bible editions is Revelation 22:20, in which the Lord promises: “Surely I am coming soon.” John, the writer of Revelation, follows with these inspired words: “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” Those words became part of the worship life for many in the Early Church as they expectantly awaited the return of the Lord to the earth and the completion of His promised eternal kingdom. In the season of Advent, we echo that ancient yearning cry: “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”

PREPARATION

OPENING HYMN “COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS”

#338



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.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.

Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven

Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 80:1, 3, 14a, 17; 40:1, 3a

P Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

C Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

- P** Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see.
C **But let Your hand be on the man of Your right hand, the son of man whom You have made strong for Yourself!**
- P** I waited patiently for the LORD; He inclined to me and heard my cry.
C **He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** O God, our Father, You have set forth the way of life for us in Your beloved Son. We confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow Him, and our reluctance to bear the cross.
C **Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love. We acknowledge our sinful nature and confess our sinful thoughts, words, and deed. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.**
- P** Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**
- P** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in † peace.
C **Amen.**

INTROIT

Psalm 105:4–8; antiphon: Isaiah 40:3

- P** A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”
- C** ***Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His presence continually!***
- P** *Remember the wondrous works that He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He uttered, O offspring of Abraham, His servant, children of Jacob, His chosen ones!*
- C** ***He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth.***
- P** *He remembers His covenant forever, the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.*
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

KYRIE

- A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

HYMN “O REJOICE, YE CHRISTIANS, LOUDLY”

1 O re - joice, ye Chris - tians, loud - ly, For our joy has
 2 See, my soul, thy Sav - ior choos - es Weak - ness here and
 3 Lord, how shall I thank Thee right - ly? I ac - knowl - edge
 4 Je - sus, guard and guide Thy mem - bers, Fill them with Thy

now be - gun; Won - drous things our God has done.
 pov - er - ty; In such love He comes to thee.
 that by Thee I am saved e - ter - nal - ly.
 bound - less grace, Hear their prayers in ev - 'ry place.

Tell a - broad His good - ness proud - ly, Who our race has
 Nei - ther crib nor cross re - fus - es; All He suf - fers
 Let me not for - get it light - ly, But to Thee at
 Fan to flame faith's glow - ing em - bers; Grant all Chris - tians,

hon - ored thus, That He deigns to dwell with us.
 for thy good To re - deem thee by His blood.
 all times cleave And my heart true peace re - ceive.
 far and near, Ho - ly peace, a glad new year!

Refrain

Joy, O joy, be - yond all glad - ness, Christ has done a -
 way with sad - ness! Hence, all sor - row and re - pin - ing,
 For the Sun of Grace is shin - ing!

Text: Christian Keimann, 1607–62; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: Andreas Hammerschmidt, c. 1611–1675
 Text and tune: Public domain

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

“O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL”

#357 sts. 1, ref, 3, 6



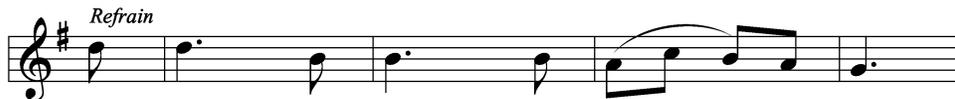
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.



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



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: French, 15th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 11:1–10

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

²And 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.

³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,

and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

⁹They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰In 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 15:4–13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and sing to your name.”

¹⁰And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

¹¹And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples extol him.”

¹²And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in him will the Gentiles hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL AND VERSE

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.; Luke 3:4b, 6

P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

C *Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.*

C *Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless You.*

P Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1–12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹In 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.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he
said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume to say to yourselves,
‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to
raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees.
Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the
fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is
mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the
Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his
threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with
unquenchable fire.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**



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
 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



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



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

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

CREED

The Second Article

- P** In the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed, echoing the proclamation of John the Baptist, we confess Jesus to be the Savior, the One who fulfills God's promises.
- C** **I believe 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.**
- P** What does this mean?
- C** **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 OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Jesus Christ and for all people according to their needs.

Come, O Lord, among us, that as people united in faith, we may witness to the Good News that is ours in Christ Jesus. With hope we pray:

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

P Come, O Lord, with Your presence on earth, that in those places where strife and discord rule there be times of peace. Come to our nation, that we find joy in that which is done through it by the leaders and by the people. With hope we pray:

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

P Come, O Lord, and walk beside us that Your love and blessing be evident in all that we say and do. With hope we pray:

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

P Come, O Lord, and bring Your response to the special concerns on our hearts today, including health and family needs and situations that are part of life, *including Hedy, Jean, Ray, Rose, Wally, Dana, Kaylee, Kris, Jen, John, Jonathan, Leah, and Rod.* With hope we pray:

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

P For all those who have completed their earthly journey in faith and now rest from their labors in eternal peace and joy, serving as witnesses of Your never-ending care, we bless You, O Lord, and ask that we also be numbered with the saints in glory everlasting. With hope we pray:

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

LORD'S SUPPER

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 161

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord of heaven and earth. We thank You for having sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, to be our Redeemer, saving us from the power of sin, death, and the devil, and blessing our lives with lasting peace. Invited by Your grace, we come to Your Table expectantly and hopefully with gratitude and joy. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood that we grow as people of faith and peace, awaiting with hope the eternal feast in glory everlasting.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

**For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“LO! HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING”

#336



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him
 3 Those dear to - kens of His pas - sion
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore Thee,



Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
 Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
 Still His daz - zling bod - y bears,
 High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;



Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 Those who set at naught and sold Him,
 Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



Swell the tri - umph of His train:
 Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
 To His ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
 Claim the king - dom as Thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
 rap - ture Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.

Tune: Thomas Olivers, 1725–99

Text and tune: Public domain

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.

Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, 1598, Hamburg, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

THANK THE LORD

LSB 164



POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, we thank You for having welcomed us at Your Table, giving us a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. Strengthen us through this blessed gift that we may live in hope-filled anticipation of the end of all earthly things and await with joy Your final coming in glory. Grant that Your Holy Spirit enlighten us with His gifts that we be kept in the true faith until the last and greatest day of our Lord's return. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Savior.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME”

#358



1 “From heav’n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
2 “To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
3 “This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
4 “He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by



news to ev - ’ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Geistliche lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valtin Schumann
Text and tune: Public domain

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