



Advent Meditation

on the

Antiphons

December 13, 2023

6:45 pm

INTRODUCTION

Advent is a season of the church year when we repent and look toward the coming of Jesus. We remember his coming as a baby in a manger, in His Word and Sacraments, and especially when Jesus comes as Judge and Savior on the Last Day. One of the hymns the Christian Church has sung to express her desire for Christ to come is O Come, O Come Emmanuel. This hymn, written in the 12th century, is based on the Great "O Antiphons" of Advent that we sing for tonight.

The "O Antiphons" refer to the seven antiphons that have been recited or chanted before the Magnificat, the song describing Mary's praise to the Lord upon visiting Elizabeth, during the service of evening prayer, called Vespers. In particular, they have been sung from December 17-23, a period known as the Octave before Christmas.

These antiphons express longing for the coming of Christ Jesus using seven different titles extracted from the book of Isaiah, such as O Wisdom, O Lord, and O Emmanuel. These titles are followed by prayers asking for Jesus to come and fulfill an Old Testament promise or prophecy. In this way, the O Antiphons have served as short prayers which paraphrase Scripture and have been cherished for centuries by Christian worshippers as a great, expressive desire for the coming of the Savior.

Tonight, as we anticipate the same joy for Christ and his coming, let us pray the O Antiphons, meditate on them, and sing them.

OPENING HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB 343:1, 2, 3

- 1. Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory
Foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God's Word!**
- 2. God's people, see Him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God's Word!**

- 3. Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him!
All nations, now adore Him!
Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God's Word!**

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come among us with great might; and because we are sorely hindered by our sin, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

LSB 343:4

- 4. His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God's Word!**

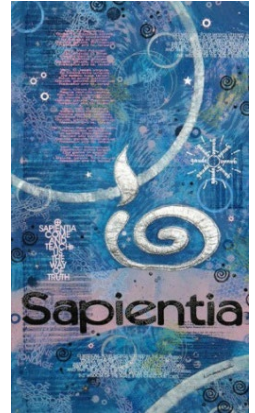
O Sapientia (O Wisdom)

December 17

ANTIPHON

P *O Wisdom*, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things:

C **Come and teach us the way of wisdom.**



READINGS

Isaiah 11:2-3a

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.

1 Corinthians 1:21-25, 30

²¹For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. ²²Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

³⁰It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

MEDITATION

HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

LSB 357:2

**2. Oh, come Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

O Adonai (O Lord)

December 18

ANTIPHON

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

READINGS

Isaiah 33:22

²² For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king; he will save us.

Exodus 3:13-14

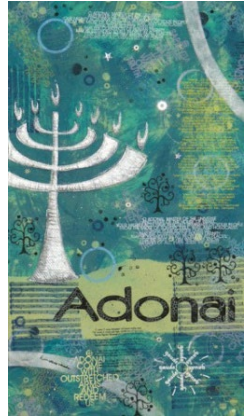
¹³Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

MEDITATION

HYMN

LSB 357:3

3. **Oh, come, oh, come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law,
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**



O Radix Jesse (O Root of Jesse)

December 19

ANTIPHON

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

READINGS

Isaiah 11:1-2, 10

¹A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.
¹⁰In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.

Luke 1:26-33

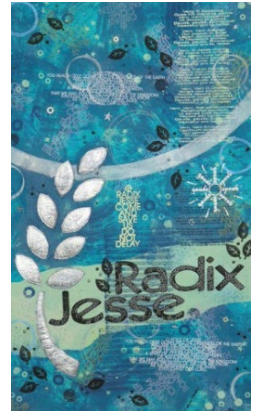
²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He 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, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

MEDITATION

HYMN

LSB 357:4

4. **Oh, come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save; And give them vict'ry o'er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.**



O Clavis David (O Key of David)

December 20

ANTIPHON

- P** *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:
- C** **Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.**

READINGS

Isaiah 22:22

²²I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

Matthew 16:13-19

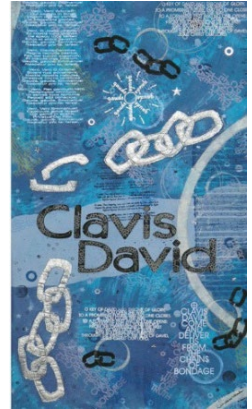
¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

MEDITATION

HYMN

LSB 357:5

- 5. Oh, come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**



O Oriens (O Dayspring)

December 21

ANTIPHON

- P** *O Dayspring*, splendor of light everlasting;
C **Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.**

READINGS

Isaiah 9:1-2

¹But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.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 shined.

Luke 1:68-69, 76-79

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.

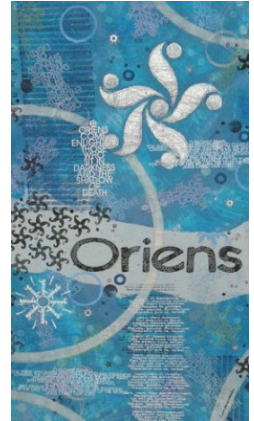
⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, ⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high ⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

MEDITATION

HYMN

LSB 357:6

- 6. Oh, come, Thou Dayspring from on high
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**



O Rex Gentium (O King of Nations)

December 22

ANTIPHON

- P** *O King of the nations*, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all peoples:
C **O come and save us all, whom You formed out of clay.**

READINGS

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Jeremiah 10:6-10

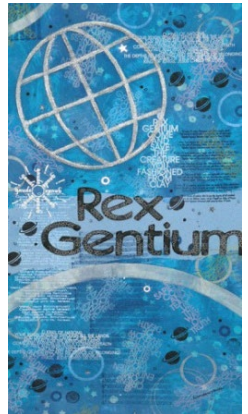
⁶There is none like you, O LORD; you are great, and your name is great in might. ⁷Who would not fear you, O King of the nations? For this is your due; for among all the wise ones of the nations and in all their kingdoms there is none like you. ⁸They are both stupid and foolish; the instruction of idols is but wood! ⁹Beaten silver is brought from Tarshish, and gold from Uphaz. They are the work of the craftsman and of the hands of the goldsmith; their clothing is violet and purple; they are all the work of skilled men. ¹⁰But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation.

MEDITATION

HYMN

LSB 357:7

- 7. Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**



O Emmanuel (O God-With-Us)

December 23

ANTIPHON

P *O Emmanuel*, our king and our Lord, the anointed for the nations and their Savior:

C **Come and save us, O Lord our God**

READINGS

Isaiah 7:14–17

¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."

Matthew 1:22-23

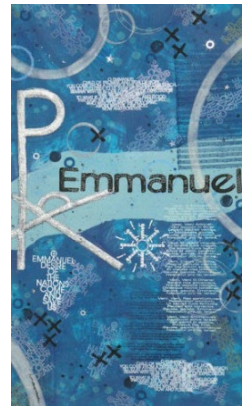
²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" – which means, "God with us."

MEDITATION

HYMN

LSB 357:1

- Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**



OFFERING

PRAYERS

P Holy God, holy and most gracious Father,
C have mercy and hear us.

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.

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

- P** Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord,
C and grant us Your salvation. *Psalm 85:7*
- P** Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness;
C and let Your saints shout for joy. *Psalm 132:9*
- P** Lord, keep this nation under Your care,
C and guide us in the way of justice and truth. *Liturgical Text*
- P** Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
C for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon the earth. *Psalm 67:4*
- P** Let the peoples praise You, O God;
C let all the peoples praise You! *Psalm 67:5*
- P** For the needy shall not always be forgotten,
C and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever. *Psalm 9:18*
- P** Create in me a clean heart, O God,
C and renew a right spirit within me. *Psalm 51:10*
- P** Hear my prayer, O Lord;
C let my cry come to You. *Psalm 102:1*

COLLECT FOR ADVENT

- P** Let us pray.
 O Lord Jesus Christ, King of glory, King of kings and Lord of lords, the Son of the living God and Son of David, come. Come now to Your Church that You have purchased with Your blood. Come with Your gracious presence, that we may rejoice in You. Come and rule over us, that we may serve and follow You. Come with Your love, humility, and perfect obedience, and let Your lowliness become our glory. Come into the midst of Your people and forgive us our sin, and do not angrily cast away Your servants, for You are forgiving and gracious. Clothe us with the garment of Your righteousness, for You are the only righteous One and our Helper. Come Lord Jesus and bring the full consummation of Your promises. Come and make all things new. Come Savior of the nations, that we might live with You forever in the new heaven and earth, rejoicing and glorifying You forever. We pray in Your name,

Lord Jesus, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS/BENEDICTION

P Let us bless the Lord.

Psalm 103:1

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you...and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332

1. **Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.**
2. **Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.**
3. **Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.**
4. **Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.**
5. **God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.**
6. **For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.**
7. **From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.**
- △ 8. **Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.**

POSTLUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come

arr. Behnke

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Serving the Lord and Us Today:

Preaching	Vicar Nathan Harkins
Liturgist	Pastor Mike Ada
Organist.....	Lauran Delancy
Flautists	Riley Olson, Anna Herrs, & Izzy Martinez
Horn Player.....	Sydney Hughey
Violinist	Sam Olson
Cellists	Kaylana Schepmann, Alexandra Olson, & Hudson Vogt
Trumpeters	Thomas Bodenstab & Layla Schepmann
Trombonist	Ashley Martinez

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Advent Supper – Fellowship Hall 5:30pm – 6:15pm

Lessons and Carols Worship Service – **6:45pm**

This service of Lessons and Carols focuses on the prophecy and fulfillment of the coming Christ in Scripture and song.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Advent Divine Service – 8:00am and 10:45am

Family Education Hour – 9:30am – 10:30am

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services – 4:00pm, 6:00pm and 8:00pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion – 9:00am

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

New Year's Eve Day Divine Service – 8:00am and 10:45am (No evening service)

Family Education Hour – 9:30am – 10:30am

