

## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

December 15<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Mon Matthew 11:2-10** When John sends disciples to ask Jesus to confirm His Messiah-ship, He points to the prophecies which He has fulfilled. He then turns and extols John's role in the coming Kingdom of God.

**Tues Romans 10:9-15** It is with heart and mouth that Jesus is honored and salvation is enjoyed by both Jew and non-Jew. The Lord our righteousness provides preachers of the gospel to speak to the heart.

**Wed Matthew 1:18-23** The Lord appears to Joseph in a dream to let him know that Mary has not been unfaithful to her promise. This miracle of God-with-us is not something Joseph or we would have thought up.

**Thurs Isaiah 60:1-5** The coming of the Lord means the coming of light in darkness and nations will be drawn to that light. As John also writes: "In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind" (Jn1:4).

**Fri Psalm 98** Although Jesus' coming in Bethlehem was without earthly fanfare, His coming to judge the earth will be reason for shouting and singing and sounding of trumpets. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

**Sat Psalm 4** God's children may have troubles, but they know that all blessings come from the Lord. To Him they will look and from Him receive greater joys than worldly prosperity can bring (v7).

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## 3rd Sunday of Advent

December 14th, 2025

Liturgy: "O" Antiphons

Organist: Kathy Lueck



O Wisdom | O King of Nations | Root of Jesse | O Lord and Ruler | O Dayspring | O Key of David | O Emmanuel | O Wisdom | O  
 King of Nations | O Root of Jesse | O Lord and Ruler | O Dayspring | O Key of David | O Emmanuel | O Wisdom | O King of Nations |  
 O Root of Jesse | O Lord and Ruler | O Dayspring | O Key of David | O Emmanuel | O Wisdom | O King of Nations | O Root of Jesse

[illegible]

# ST. JOHN'S

Lutheran Church & School

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## Introduction to our Advent Theme: The O Antiphons

The paraphrases of Holy Scripture known as The Great “O” Antiphons of Advent have been cherished for centuries by Christian worshippers as most expressive of the Church’s desire for the Savior. They are each awe-filled expressions of that Advent spirit that is focused on Christ’s coming—His historical coming on Christmas, His continued coming in the Means of Grace, and His second coming on Judgment Day. Each antiphon consists of a title given to Christ in the Old Testament, asking Him to come and fulfill some Scriptural promise or prophecy. They also are the basis of one of our greatest Advent hymns, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”

### ✠ Opening Prayer – “O Dayspring” ✠

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

**Hymn: TLH #550:1-2, 7-9** “O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright”

- ☞ In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
☛ Amen.

### Confession and Absolution

- ☞ As we wait for the second coming of Christ, the Wisdom of God and Key who opens heaven’s gates, let us prepare our hearts for His arrival by confessing our sins.
- ☛ **Almighty and merciful Father, we confess that we have sought knowledge apart from You, that we have heard Your commandments but disobeyed them, that our faith has been easily shaken, that we have closed our hearts to Your mercy, that we have walked in shadows of doubt and despair, that we follow the lead of the devil, and that we have forgotten about Your presence in our lives. Come to us, O LORD, forgive us for Jesus’ sake and restore us according to Your mercy.**
- ☞ Hear the good news of Advent hope: Jesus, the Wisdom of God, teaches us the way of truth. Jesus, our Lord, delivers us

**The Ladies’ Aid** annual Christmas Potluck will be held this Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

**Christmas Gift Boxes** – As is our custom at St. John’s, there are boxes on the table in the entry for gifting our called workers at Christmastime. There is no expectation or obligation to donate—just a place to put a monetary gift to them if you choose to do so. Please keep in mind that there are 2 full-time and 2 part-time teachers this year that will share the gift from the Teacher box.

**Calendars** – Spiritual calendars for 2026 are available in the entryway. The suggested donation is \$5 each. Any extra donations received will be given to our school.

**2026 CLC Mission Helper Trip** – The CLC Mission Helper Program is making preparations for another Mission Trip to Africa for the summer of 2026. The main focus of this trip will be presenting the Gospel, through a series of child evangelism lessons, to member and non-member children in village congregations. Possible areas of evangelism include the CLC–Tanzania, CLC–Kenya, CLC–Zambia, and CLC–Uganda. CLC members are welcome and encouraged to apply. For more information and to apply, visit [www.mht.lutheranmissions.org](http://www.mht.lutheranmissions.org).

**CLC Call News** - Pastor Cory Drehle of Berea Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, SD, has **received** the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has **returned** the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ.

Ushers	12/14	Phil S, Nathan V, Anthony F, Daniel R.
	12/21	Trevor B, Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R.
	12/28	Kendall B, Larry B.
Cleaning	This Week – The Ruthenbecks (wk. 1)	
	Up Next – DeWall, Bass	

## ✠ The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer ✠

### The Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

*The blessing given by God for His people.*

- P** The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

**G Amen!**

Hymn: TLH #58:1, 4-5, 9      "O Lord, How Shall I Meet Thee"

✠ ✠ ✠

**Christmas Card Bulletin Boards** – You are invited to hang your Christmas card on the bulletin boards located on the table outside the fellowship hall downstairs.

**Advent VBS** – Weather permitting, the final Advent VBS will be held this Tuesday from 3:15-5:15 pm. Children between Pre-school and 8<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join us!

**Election Meeting Summary** – Here is a summary of last Sunday's Election Meeting from the notes of Chairman Phil Strike: Bennett Olmanson was accepted into voting membership. Nathan Voit was appointed to be a communion assistant. The Elders and Pastor are looking for another communion assistant to suggest to the Chairman to appoint. A motion was passed to thank Allen Jensen for his many faithful years of service in this capacity. A motion was passed to set Pastor's housing allowance for income tax purposes. **Election results** were as follows: David Schmidt was elected to the Board of Elders <> Jim Sullivan was elected to the Board of Trustees <> Phil Strike was reelected as Chairman <> Christian Kazemba was reelected as Secretary <> Nathan Albrecht was reelected as Treasurer <> Jim Kazemba was elected to the Board of Education <> Rick Gustaf and Josh Zuehlke were elected and Larry Boernsen was reelected to the Finance Board <> Mike Fogelman was elected to the Cemetery Board. Installation of these officers will be during the service on Sunday, January 4.

from sin and death. Jesus, the Root of Jesse, deepens our trust. Jesus, the Key of David, opens to us the kingdom of grace. Jesus, the Dayspring, brings light to our darkness. Jesus, the King of the Nations, unites us in His peace. Jesus, Immanuel – God with us – forgives, renews, and restores.

Therefore, as a called servant of the Word, I proclaim to you: In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**G Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

**Response: "A Litany for Advent"**

*Tune of WS #789*

**G** *Lord Jesus, come to us, we pray,  
Bring us Your truth, Show us Your way,  
As once the prophets did foretell,  
Oh, come to us, Immanuel.*

*The universe is in our care,  
Help us protect, help us to share,  
Send us Your peace, Your glad Noel,  
Oh, come to us, Immanuel.*

*Our world is torn in war and sin.  
Our people hurt without, within.  
Your healing love will make us well,  
Oh, come to us, Immanuel.*

*Prepare our hearts, tell all the earth  
That we may celebrate Your birth.  
Oh, enter in our lives to dwell.  
Oh, come to us Immanuel.*

### Collect Prayer of the Day

*A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.*

- P** O Dayspring, Light of the world, shine upon us in our darkness. Illuminate our hearts with hope, and guide our steps in Your truth, that we may walk in Your light; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **G Amen.**





### Isaiah 9:2-3

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. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.



### John 1:4-9

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.



### Revelation 22:16-21

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." <sup>17</sup> The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price. <sup>18</sup> I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, <sup>19</sup> and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. <sup>20</sup> He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! <sup>21</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

## Confession of Faith

Explanation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Article

### 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.**

**He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.**

**He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity. This is most certainly true.**

Choir

*"Where Shepherds Lately Knelt"*

Hymn: TLH #106

*"The People That in Darkness Sat"*



### Luke 1:78-79


Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; <sup>79</sup> To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.

### The "O" Antiphons: O Dayspring

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

### The Offertory

TLH #62

 *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.**

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Hymn: TLH #343:1-2, 5-6 *"How Lovely Shines the Morning Star"*