

4th Sunday of Advent

December 21st, 2025

Liturgy: The "O" Antiphons

Organist: Lana Strike



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



Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to Thee, O Israel. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to Thee, O Israel. Rejoice! Rejoice!
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ST. JOHN'S

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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 Immanuel” ✠

P O Immanuel, our King and our Lord, the Anointed for the nations and their Savior: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Hymn: TLH #56

“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P 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.

C 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.

P Hear the good news of Advent hope: Jesus, the Wisdom of God, teaches us the way of truth. Jesus, our Lord, delivers us 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 Immanuel, God with us, remain close to us in every joy and sorrow. Be our strength, our hope, and our salvation, and remind us always that You dwell among Your people; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.





Isaiah 7:10-14

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³ And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? 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.



John 1:10-17

He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And 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. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.



*The
Word
became
flesh and made
his dwelling among us.*

John 1:14



Romans 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring

about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷ To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Confession of Faith

Explanation of the 2nd Article

G 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

"Just Beyond the Manger"

Hymn: TLH #108:1-3, 7-8

"We Sing, Immanuel, Thy Praise"



Matthew 1:20-23

But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

The "O" Antiphons: O Immanuel

*"O Immanuel, our King and our Lord,
The Anointed for the nations and their Savior:
Come and save us, O Lord our God."*

C ♪ O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lowly exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Hymn: Below

"Immanuel! God with Us!"

**1. Immanuel! God with us! This is our humble prayer,
For sin and guilt within us Would lead us to despair.
In us dwells naught but evil, but Christ's victorious pow'r
Has conquered death and Satan And brought salvation's hour.**

**2. Immanuel! God with us! This is our cheerful boast,
When Satan would assail us With all his dreadful host.
Our trust we place in Jesus, In His atoning blood;
His righteousness will shield us, His love guide us for good.**

**3. Immanuel! God with us! This is our battle-cry
When unbelief would mock us And dare our trust deny.
'Tis then His might emboldens And strengthens our weak heart;
'Tis then His arm protects us From ev'ry hostile dart.**

**4. Immanuel! God with us! This is our final sigh
When our last hour comes on us And death's dark vale is nigh.
'Tis then His love enfolds us And takes us by the hand
to lead us safely homeward To our true Fatherland.**

✠ 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.

C Amen!

Hymn: WS #713

"Your Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We"

Caroling – We will be caroling after church today, visiting people in Okabena, Lakefield, Heron Lake, and Windom. If you are able to stay and join for some or all of those locations, please do! There will be a potluck after church, and then we will head out to sing the good news.

Mary Durst Funeral – The funeral for Mary Durst will be held on Saturday, January 17th.

Christmas Schedule – This Wednesday's Christmas Eve service will be held at 6:30 pm. Thursday's Christmas Day service will be held at 9:30 am.

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.

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.

Ushers	12/21	Trevor B, Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R.
	12/28	Kendall B, Larry B.
	1/4	Phil S, Nathan V, Anthony F, Daniel R.
Cleaning		This Week – DeWall, Bass (Wk. 2)
		Up Next – Zuehlke, Winters, Appel

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

December 22nd - 27th, 2025

Mon John 1:19-28 John the Baptizer turns aside all renown from himself, that it may go instead to the One far greater "whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie" (v27). To Him must go the praise!

Tues Philippians 4:4-7 Joy in the Lord goes together with gentleness toward others, for our hearts are not guarded by sharp words and weapons, but by the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding (v7).

Wed Luke 2:1-14 On the night before Christmas, we remember how the Christ came quietly to Bethlehem, and was announced to unnamed shepherds at night. But the angels already knew, and rejoiced!

Thurs John 1:16-18 "Grace upon grace" describes our God. And His grace and truth came to us through Jesus Christ. Through the only-begotten Son we learn to know the Father!

Fri Titus 2:11-14 It is the grace of God that brings salvation to all people. This grace also trains us to say "No" to ungodliness, since He gave Himself to redeem us from all lawlessness, and to be His own people.

Sat Isaiah 9:2-7 Joy, light, and freedom are encompassed in the promised child (v6). There will be no end to the peace that He brings, for He will be everything that His names imply!

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