

DECEMBER 2020

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel. The Advent hymn is a prayer - it is our prayer. In this prayer we beg for God to come and to be "God with us" (which is what Emmanuel means.) We cry out for Him to be among us, to dwell with us, to come and do for us what we could never do: ransom us, make the payment for us, be the total sum of all our hope for release from the captivity of our broken selves and our broken world.

O come, Emmanuel, rend the heavens and come down. Visit
Your people who mourn in lowly exile here. Disperse the
gloomy clouds of night and be Thyself our King of Peace.
Hear our prayer, O Lord. Let our cry come to you.

He hears our prayer. He comes. In the fulness of time, God came to dwell with us as He designed to be born of the Virgin. True God, Emmanuel, desired to become manifest in the flesh to be "God with us." Our prayer is answered as Jesus goes to the manger and then to the cross to be our ransom.



O, what an Advent, what a coming! Almighty God binds Himself to us, His creatures, in the most glorious way. He sees the great need that we live in and comes! Our brokenness will not last forever, our mourning will not last a lifetime. Peace has entered into our world for us captives. Rejoice! Rejoice!

Our Advent prayer has been answered and is still being answered. Our Lord still comes! Placing Himself into our midst as a rose among thorns that His sweet fragrance lifts up our heads to see the the Wisdom of God dwelling in His Holy Word where we place all of our hope, for Christ comes to anchor us there. To calm our anxieties and give direction to our wavering hearts, He comes! To be mercy for us, to be comfort for us, to be the light in our darkness, He comes!

As you sing the Advent hymns and the hymns of Christmas, you are praying and confessing the wondrous deeds of the Savior of the nations who dwells with us. The Lord hears the prayers of His children, ransoms us, and we can't help but sing. Rejoice! Christ comes!

A blessed Advent and Merry Christmas,
- Pastor Suggitt

LIFE QUOTES

“This Christmas, let us continue to pray for mothers who are afraid and aren’t sure where to turn when they discover they are unexpectedly pregnant. Let us pray that, like Mary, they may find the courage to bring life into the world.” *Right to Life of Michigan* – *A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • www.lutheransforlife.org

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