



THE BEAD • THE GATE • THE WAY • THE LIGHT • THE TRUE

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Vespers for the First Sunday of Advent


Welcome: Sister Michele Bisbey, CDP Provincial

Call to Prayer:


O God, who looks deep within and transforms our darkness into light, shine the light of your face on all people this Advent. (Caryll Houselander)

Evening Hymn: We will sing verses 1, 3, and 6.


Creator of the Stars of Night



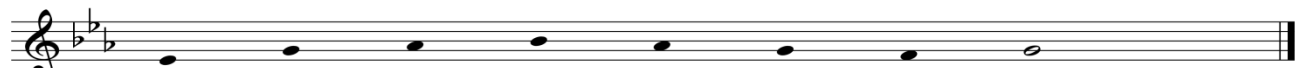
1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
2. In sor - row that the an - cient curse
3. When this old world drew on toward night,
4. At your great Name, O Je - sus, now
5. Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,
6. To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,
Cre - á - tor ál - me sí - de - rum,



Your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
Should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
You came; but not in splen - dor bright,
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
Re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;
And God the Spir - it, Three in One,
Ae - tér - na lux cre - dén - ti - um,



O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,
You came, O Sav - ior, to set free
Not as a mon - arch, but the child
All things on earth with one ac - cord,
De - fend us while we dwell be - low
Praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be
Jé - su, Red - ém - ptor ó - mni - um,



We pray you hear us when we call.
Your own in glo - rious lib - er - ty.
Of Mar - y, blame - less moth - er mild.
Like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
From all as - saults of our dread foe.
From age to age e - ter - nal - ly.
In - tén - de vó - tis súp - pli - cum.

Blessing of Advent Wreath and Candles for Windows

Please follow the Cantor for the sung refrain of Psalm 141.

Psalm 141 David Haas

My prayers rise be - fore you, like in - cense, O

Lord. My hands like the eve - ning of - f'ring.

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Prayer Over Advent Wreath:

Lord God, your people joyfully await the coming of our Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of discord and injustice. Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath; may their light reflect the splendor of Jesus and the love of our Provident God. Amen.

Prayer Over the Candles:

According to an old Christian tradition, a lighted candle in the window is a sign that inside are people waiting to welcome wayfarers with warm and affectionate hospitality. In that spirit, we will keep lighted candles in the windows of our homes and chapels throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons to be a guiding light for those who are seeking shelter, love and peace. We bless these candles in the name of our Provident God and in the spirit of Mother Marie de Laroche who said, "The darkest paths lead to light through love and grace."

Psalm One

Antiphon: The Lord will come soon, will not delay, the Lord will make the darkest places bright. (from the Monastic Liturgy)

1. I pray with upraised eyes, Drop down, O dew of Heaven, that God might walk and talk on earth, might heal and feed our needy world.
2. My prayers like searchlights comb the winter skies. Descend from these skies to green with your grace our barren earth.
1. Such an Advent waiting prayer can be a lifelong profession of patient longing, unless I know, with all my heart that Emmanuel not only comes down but also comes forth and emerges.
2. Come forth from deep within me with Christmas luminous beauty, for my heart has become the sacred crib, the birthing place of God-among-us.
1. Peace on earth and justice for all will only become manifest in our lives when your daughters and sons awaken to your divine design that has made each of us an Emmanuel for our world.

Antiphon: The Lord will come soon, will not delay, the Lord will make the darkest places bright.

Psalm Prayer:

Provident God, our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Jesus, our Savior, and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Lord.

All: Amen.

Psalm Two

Antiphon:



Christ, cir - cle round us. Christ, may your light sur -
round us. Shine in our liv - ing. Fill our hearts
with great thanks giv - ing.

1. Isaiah of old prayed: "Let the earth open wide as justice descends, O heavens,
Like the dew from above, like gentle showers, let salvation fall from the skies;
Let justice spring up and salvation bud forth."
2. Come, gentle rain of Advent-tide, soak deep into my heart.
Make buds appear on my heart's barren rosebush and blooms on its dried flower stalks.
 1. Come, showers of silence and wet my soul; soak deeply with your fertile fingers, dripping heaven's dew.
May I come forth from my times of prayer as from a bath;
Refreshed, renewed, revitalized.
 2. Advent prayer of December stillness, dampen my dry soul.
Coax forth green leaves of the Spirit and bring forth buds of bright flowers.

1. May souls that love bring out awesome gifts, for Emmanuel, God-among-us is awakened by the gentle mists of Advent longing and is eager to give gifts of love, presents of your Presence.
2. O Prince of Peace, make me ready to shower down Emmanuel's justice and peace upon all I meet this Advent.

**Antiphon (sung): Christ, circle round us, Christ, may your light surround us,
Shine in our living, Fill our hearts with great thanksgiving.**

Psalm Prayer:

As the Prophet Isaiah prayed for justice and salvation to rain down from the heavens and come forth from the earth, we pray: Come, Radiant God, fill us with your grace that we may bring forth your justice and peace on earth. We ask this in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Gospel:

Reader:

Our illumination this First Week of Advent references five distinct proclamations from Jesus about himself in the Gospel of John. Following the feeding of the multitudes, the people search him out wanting more of the same.

Voice of Jesus: "I am the Bread of Life"

Reader: Jesus declares to a stunned audience. (John 6:35). He goes on to say, "whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Later, after an encounter with a crowd who wants to stone a woman accused of adultery, Jesus says to a similarly shocked audience,

Voice of Jesus: "I am the light of the world" (8:12)

Reader: And then promises, “whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

After healing a blind man to the dismay of the Pharisees who protest, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” (9:40), Jesus tells them that “anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate . . . is a thief and a bandit” (10:1). Anticipating their bewilderment and confusion, Jesus makes his meaning perfectly clear:

Voice of Jesus: “Very truly, I tell you, **I am the gate** for the sheep.”

Reader: He goes on to say, “who enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture... I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.”

To the disciples who want explicit directions about where to find Jesus when he leaves them, Jesus says,

Voice of Jesus: “**I am the way**, the truth, and the life” (14:6).

Reader: And not long after, Jesus further declares,

Voice of Jesus: “**I am the true vine**, and my Father is the vine grower” (15:1).

Reader: The Gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Time of Reflection:

Let us take some time to reflect upon the names of Jesus in this Gospel and in the illumination from the Saint John’s Bible. Here are some questions to ponder:

How do you understand these five names for Jesus? What is revealed in each? Which name resonates with you the most? Which one the least? Why?

Collection:

While some quiet music plays, we will take up a collection for the homeless.

Magnificat:

GOSPEL CANTICLE (MAGNIFICAT)

Bernadette Farrell



1. My soul pro - claims the great-ness of the Lord.
2. Through me great deeds will God make man - i - fest,
3. God's might - y arm, pro - tec - tor of the just,
4. Soon will the poor and hun - gry of the earth
5. All glo - ry be to God, Cre - a - tor blest,



1. My spir - it sings to God, my sav - ing God,
2. And all the earth will come to call me blest.
3. Will guard the weak and raise them from the dust.
4. Be rich - ly blest, be giv - en great - er worth.
5. To Je - sus Christ, God's love made man - i - fest,



1. Who on this day a - bove all oth - ers fa - vored me
2. Un - bound - ed love and mer - cy sure will I pro - claim
3. But might - y kings will swift - ly fall from thrones cor - rupt.
4. And Is - ra - el, as once fore - told to A - bra - ham,
5. And to the Ho - ly Spir - it, gen - tle Com - fort - er,



1. And raised me up, a light for all to see.
2. For all who know and praise God's ho - ly name.
3. The strong brought low, the low - ly lift - ed up.
4. Will live in peace through - out the prom - ised land.
5. All glo - ry be, both now and ev - er - more.

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Prayers of Intercession: Our response will be, "Provident God, hear our prayer."

Jesus said, I am the Bread of Life. May we be nourished in the gift of the Eucharist
and in turn become bread for others. We pray:

Jesus said, I am the Light of the World. May that light illuminate our hearts so that we may be Christ's light to those who dwell in darkness. We pray:

Jesus said, I am the Gate for the sheep; whoever enters through me will be saved. May we rest in the knowledge of God's loving care for us and open our gate to welcome those who are most vulnerable in this world: the poor, the lonely, and the forgotten. We pray:

Jesus said, I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. May we always seek to live in the light of God's truth and be bold to speak out against the injustices in our world. We pray:

Jesus said, I am the true Vine, and my Father is the vine grower. May we recognize that God will give us the strength we need to carry out the mission of justice, love and peace in our troubled world. We pray:

The Lord's Prayer: Let us sing the words of Jesus who is our Emmanuel.

Sign of Peace: Let us extend to one another the peace of Christ.

Closing Prayer:

O God, open our hearts to prepare the way for the coming of Christ. May your Light guide us on our Advent journey to share the promise of Emmanuel, God-among-us, with all we encounter along the way. We ask this in the name of our Provident God. Amen.

Closing Song: We will sing verses 1 & 2.

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL

Verses



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And
 2. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who
 3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who
 4. O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se's stem, From
 5. O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And
 6. O come, Thou Day-spring from on high And
 7. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In



1. ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in
 2. or - d'rest all things might - i - ly; To us the
 3. to thy tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient
 4. ev - 'ry foe de - liv - er them That trust thy
 5. o - pen wide our heav - 'nly home; Make safe the
 6. cheer us by thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the
 7. one the hearts of all hu - man - kind; Bid thou our



1. lone - ly ex - ile here Un - til the Son of
 2. path of knowl - edge show, And teach us in her
 3. times didst give the law, In cloud and maj - es -
 4. might - y pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry
 5. way that leads on high, And close the path to
 6. gloom - y clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ow
 7. sad di - vi - sions cease, And be thy - self our

Refrain



1. God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u -
 2. ways to go.
 3. ty and awe.
 4. o'er the grave.
 5. mis - er - y.
 6. put to flight.
 7. Prince of Peace.



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

Text: LM with refrain; Latin, 9th cent.; verses 1, 3-6, para. in *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Cologne, 1710; tr. by John Mason Neale, 1818-1866; verses 2, 7 tr. fr. *The Hymnal 1940*, alt.
 Music: *Processionale*, 15th cent. French; adapt. by Thomas Helmore, 1811-1890; Chant, Mode I.

Psalm settings based on the writings of Edward Hayes
 in *Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim*