

O Come, Emmanuel Advent Series

Trinity and Mt. Hope Lutheran Churches
Gaylord and Grayling, Michigan

Order of Service

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Advent Midweek 1 – “Come, O Wisdom”

(Service of Prayer and Preaching from the Lutheran Service Book p. 260 ff.)

*Theme Verse: We preach Christ crucified... Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
1 Corinthians 1:23-24*

OPENING HYMN – “*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*” (*Lutheran Service Book* #340)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

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

C: **Amen.**

P: For centuries, the Church has used during Advent a series of antiphons, or responses, to prepare our hearts to celebrate Christ’s birth. These seven responses, names and titles for our Savior, are often called the “O Antiphons,” familiar to us in the hymn, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” We light the first candle on the Advent wreath in praise to Christ, who is the *Wisdom of God*. The apostle John writes, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...”

C: **“All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made” (John 1:1-3).**

P: The apostle Paul writes, “For by [Christ] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

C: **And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:16-17).**

P: O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, You govern all creation with Your strong yet tender care.

C: **Come show Your people the way to salvation.**

OPENING VERSES

P: This is the day which the Lord has made;

C: **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Psalm 118:24

P: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C: **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

Psalm 113:3

P: Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.

C: **Our God shall come; he does not keep silence.**

Psalm 50:2-3a

Isaiah 40:3

P: Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: **Make his paths straight.**

Isaiah 45:8

P: Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.

C: **Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.**

Psalms 113:3

P: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C: **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 55:8-13

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²“For you shall go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall make a name for the LORD,
an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians 1:20-25

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 7:24-29

[Jesus said:] “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

²⁸ And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, ²⁹ for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY

Jeremiah 23:5a, 6b

P: Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord,
when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C: **This is the name by which He will be called:
The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

Jeremiah 23:5b, 6b

P: He shall reign as king and deal wisely,
and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

C: **This is the name by which He will be called:
The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

Jeremiah 23:6b

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: **This is the name by which He will be called:
The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

APOSTLES' CREED

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.**

HYMN OF THE DAY – “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” sts. 1-2 (Lutheran Service Book #357)

SERMON – “Come, O Wisdom”

PRAYER

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For reasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Finally for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Lord Jesus, Word and Wisdom of God, You came among us as a helpless infant, and now You are exalted to rule over all creation. Crucified and risen Lord, all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to You. Rule over us in wisdom and love. Lead us by Your Spirit to walk in Your ways, through this Advent season and always. Help us to be bold and faithful witnesses for You so that others will come to and worship You as Lord; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.

BLESSING

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: **Amen.**

Acknowledgements

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