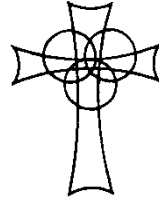




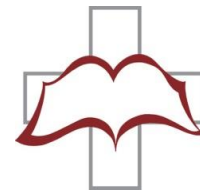
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*A Member Congregation of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod*

Midweek Devotions and Bible Study
Tuesday in the Fourth Week of Advent
December 22, 2020



Service of the Word in the Season of Advent

✠ *In the Name of Jesus!* ✠

The Opening Versicles:

Psalms 51:15 and 70:1; Isaiah 30:27; Psalm 72:19

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.
- P** Behold, the Name of the Lord comes from afar;
C May the whole earth be filled with His glory!
- C** 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.
Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

- P** ¹I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.
- C** ²**For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.**
- P** ³You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
- C** ⁴**“I will establish your offspring forever,
and build your throne for all generations.”**
- P** ⁵Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!
- C** **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.**

The Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But 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. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All 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). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**



O Wisdom

O Adonai

O Root of Jesse

O Key of David

O Dayspring

O Keystone

O Emmanuel

A Study of the Scriptures behind the Hymn and the Great O Antiphons

- Each of the stanzas and antiphons draw on images and titles found in the Old Testament and post-exilic Jewish Literature (the Apocrypha).
- In the antiphons, each of these titles are used to address and describe the Son of God, and are followed by a petition offered up to Christ to “come”.
- In the hymn version, the petition to come begins each stanza, using each of the titles, followed with a further extended petition, concluded by the Refrain: “Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel”. Knowing that the arrival of Emmanuel to the people of Israel has already occurred, the Church sings this hymn with the hope found in knowing that Christ will indeed return to His “new Israel”, which is the Church.



December 22: O King of the Nations

O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people:

Come and save us all, whom You formed out of clay.

- 7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Isaiah 28:16

therefore thus says the Lord GOD,
“Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion,
a stone, a tested stone,
a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation:
‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’”

Haggai 2:6-9

⁶For thus says the LORD of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. ⁷And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts. ⁸The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the LORD of hosts. ⁹The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the LORD of hosts.”

Ephesians 2:14

¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility



O EMMANUEL

December 23: O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel, our king and our Lord, the anointed for the nations and their Savior:

Come and save us, O Lord our God.

- 1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Isaiah 7:14

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 1:14

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.

Matthew 28:20

And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Revelation 21:3

³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.



December 24: Ero Cras

When one takes the opening letter of each of the titles used in the antiphons (in Latin), the acrostic SARCORE is formed. Written in reverse, the letters form the Latin phrase ERO CRAS, which translated means “Tomorrow I will be [present]”.

This idea of “tomorrow” in connection with the arrival of the Lord is a theme which is found in many of the liturgical texts used in the services of daily prayer on Christmas Eve.

Morning Prayer (Matins) begins with the singing of the *Venite*, with its words drawn from Psalm 95. Before and after is used an antiphon known as the Invitatory, an “invitation” which is responded to with the words, “O come, let us worship Him.” The Invitatory on Christmas Eve declares: “This day you shall know that the Lord is coming, and tomorrow you shall see His glory.”

This theme is then carried on in what is known as a Responsory—a set of responses spoken or sung between the worship leader and people or by parts of a choir following the Scripture readings. The texts are drawn from various Biblical sources to reflect the season or festival being celebrated. Some of the texts used in the responsory for the Vigil of Christmas also speak of the “tomorrow” that is coming:

Sanctify yourselves today and be prepared,
for tomorrow you shall see the majesty of God among you.
This day you shall know that the Lord is coming,
and tomorrow you shall see His glory.

Remain firm in your confidence,
you will see the Lord’s help coming upon you!
O Judah and Jerusalem, do not be afraid:
tomorrow you will go forth, and the Lord will be with you, Alleluia.
Sanctify yourselves, O Children of Israel, and be ready.

Sanctify yourselves, O Children of Israel, says the Lord,
for tomorrow the Lord will come down and remove all sickness from you.
Tomorrow the iniquity of the earth will be blotted out;
and the Savior of the world will rule over us

Many of these liturgical texts as found in older liturgies are compilations of various Biblical verses without references. It seems as if this responsory draws from ideas found in the account of God’s appearance to the people of Israel at Sinai to give the Law and the Lord’s command to the people to prepare themselves for His coming by purifying themselves. They also reference the presence of God among the people as He leads them to where He has promised—something which is ultimately fulfilled in the coming of Christ who leads His people back to Paradise and life eternal with God through the forgiveness of sins.

The Prayers:

- P** Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer.
- P** That God may bring in His kingdom with justice and mercy, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** That God may establish among the nations His scepter of righteousness, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** That we may seek Christ in the Scriptures and recognize Him in the breaking of the bread, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** That, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights in and for the world, let us pray to the Lord:
C **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- P** Let us commend the world, which Christ will judge, to the mercy and protection of God.

Open prayer may be offered and silence is kept.

The Lord's Prayer:

- P** Awaiting His coming in glory, let us pray with confidence as our Savior Christ has taught us:
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.**

The Collect of the Day:

- P** Let us pray.
Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

The Collect for Peace:

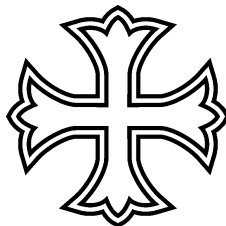
- P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

The Closing Prayer:

- P** Together we pray:
- C** **Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Him who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The Benediction:

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
- C** **Amen.**



If you were unable to send questions to Pastor Schiebel via messaging during the Facebook Live video, you can email your questions to him at trinity-elc-pastor@verizon.net.

Acknowledgments

Brief Service of the Word from Lutheran Service Book Agenda and from Common Worship: Daily Prayer.

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