

Advent Psalms and Prayers

O come, O come, Emmanuel!
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appears.

CHORUS: Rejoice! Rejoice! O Israel
To thee shall come Emmanuel.

O come Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save
And give them victory over the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice! O Israel
To thee shall come Emmanuel.

Veni, veni Emmanuel!
Captivum solve Israel
Qui gemit in exilio
Privatus Dei Filio

Gaude, Gaude, Emmanuel!
Nascetur pro te, Israel.

Veni, O Jesse Virgula!
Exhostis tuis ungula
Despecu tuos tartari
Educ, et antro barbathri

Gaude, Gaude, Emmanuel!
Nascetur pro te, Israel.

“Hail and blessed be the hour and the moment in which the Son of God was born of the Most Pure Blessed Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my petitions, through the merits of Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.” (NOTE: it is a grace filled practise to devoutly pray this short prayer 15 times every day from the feast of Saint Andrew – November 30th – until Christmas Day.)

O Infant Savior, many times in life we have prepared for guests about to enter our beloved household. Some guests were important, but not nearly as important as the heavenly Visitor for Whom we now prepare out hearts.

The prophets of old longed for Thy coming into their world. We long for Thy return to our modern world. If Advent means the coming of Christ, there is nothing we need so badly today as an advent – another coming of Thyself and Thy principles into our pagan times. Only then will we breathe in a Christian atmosphere in which joy replaces sorrow, peace replaces war and disturbance, in which love casts out darkness.

O Mary, my mother, be my model this holy season. Christ was alive within thee during the first advent. We want Him to be more alive within us than ever during this, our advent. May we not merely possess our precious Catholic faith – rather, may it take complete possession of us, so that wherever we go, whatever we do or say, it will be the Christ Child that inspires us.

We resolve to make our Christmas a holy day with Christ instead of a holiday without Him. We resolve to observe Christmas as the birthday of Christ, not merely as a day to give and receive merchandise; to help at least one poor family in honor of the Holy Family of Bethlehem. We promise to remember that the real symbols of Christmas are the star, the stable and the crib, not Santa and his reindeer.

Finally, we promise every day to give glory to God in the highest and to work and pray for peace on earth among men of good will. Amen.

PSALMS AND PRAYERS * MEDITATION

Drop down dew from above, ye heavens and let the clouds rain the Just One; let the earth be opened and bud forth a Savior. (Isa XIV 8)

(After each verse following recite the antiphon in unison:)

“Come let us adore Our Lord and King, who is about to come to us.”

First week 1. Rejoice, O daughter of Sion, and be jubilantly glad, O daughter of Israel. Behold, thy Lord comes, and in His day a great light shall arise; the mountains shall drop down sweetness and the hills shall flow with milk and honey, for the Great Prophet shall come and He shall renew Jerusalem. (Roman Breviary)

2. Behold, thy God comes, the man of the House of David, to sit upon the throne; and you shall see and your heart shall rejoice. (Roman Breviary)

Second week 3. Behold, the Lord, our Protector, comes, the Holy One of Israel, having on His head the regal crown, and He shall rule from sea to sea and from the river to the ends of the earth. (Apoc. Xiv 14; Ps lxxi 8)

4. Behold, the Lord comes, and He will not lie, should He tarry await Him, for He shall assuredly come and shall not delay. (Roman Breviary)

Third week 5. The Lord shall come down as rain upon the fleece, and in His days shall justice spring up and abundance of peace; and all the kings of the earth shall adore Him, all nations serve Him. (Psalm lxxi 6, 7, 11.)

6. A child is born to us, and He shall be called the Mighty God; He shall sit upon the throne of David, His father, and shall rule; for the government is upon His shoulders. (Isa. Ix 6)

Fourth week 7. Bethlehem, city of the most high God, out of thee shall go forth the Ruler of Israel, and His proceeding is from the beginning, even from the days of eternity; and He shall be exalted in the midst of the whole earth, and peace shall hold sway in the day of His coming.

8. Our forerunner Jesus, the Lamb undefiled, has entered the Holy of Holies for us, having become a High Priest forever according to the order of Melchisedech ... He is the King of Justice ... having neither beginning of days nor end of life. (Heb. vi 20)