



Advent Devotion

We begin in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Sing: Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel” *LSB 357, LW 31, TLH 62*

Reader 1: The word Advent means “arrival”, the arrival of something important or awaited. Advent is a time of preparation. Christians prepare for the celebration of Christ’s birth and look forward to the Second Coming of Christ. The candles on the Advent Wreath represent the coming of Christ as the Light of the World. The light grows brighter each week as each additional candle is lit. The darkness of sin recedes as we rejoice that the promise of a Savior has been fulfilled.

For the Christian, Advent is a period of anticipation as we plan to celebrate the fulfillment of God’s promise to send a Savior. For others, it is a time to decorate, bake, buy piles of presents and complain that there is too much to do and not enough time. This year, fix your eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. (*Hebrews 12:2a*)

Reader 2: “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” (*Isaiah 7:14 NIV*)

All: **Heavenly Father, as we prepare to celebrate Christ’s birth, strengthen our faith and give us the words to proclaim your love and compassion for all people.**

Reader 1: [The angel Gabriel came to Mary and said,] “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. You have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.” “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered, “Nothing is impossible with God.” “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” (*Luke 1:28b, 30b-32, 34-35a, 37-38 NIV*)

All: **Almighty God, may we sing praises to the Lord just as Mary did: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”** (*Luke 1: 46-47 NIV*)

Reader 2: This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (*1 John 4:9-11 NIV*)

All: **Merciful Father, your love for us is so great that we cannot comprehend the magnitude of your mercy shown us through Jesus Christ. Give us hearts to show our love to others by reaching out to the lonely, the hungry, the sick and those who grieve. May your love be shown to others through our words and actions.**

Sing: “Hark the Glad Sound! *LSB 349, LW 29, TLH 66*