Evening Prayer

Friday, December 18, 2026

Advent, Week 3 — Friday

OPENING

O God, come to my assistance.

Lord, make haste to help me.

Glory 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.

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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!

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, thou Dayspring, from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

PSALMODY

Psalm 125 *The Lord Restored Our Fortunes*

> *Ant. Come, Lord Jesus, for whom we long; fill your people with your blessing.*

When the Lord turned back the captivity of Zion, we became like those consoled.

Then our mouth was filled with gladness, and our tongue with joy.

Then they will say among the Gentiles: "The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us; we have become joyful.

Turn back our captivity, O Lord, like a torrent in the south.

Those who sow in tears will reap in joy.

Going, they went and wept, casting their seeds.

But coming, they will come with rejoicing, carrying their sheaves.

Glory 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.

> *Ant. Come, Lord Jesus, for whom we long; fill your people with your blessing.*

Psalm 130 *My Soul Is Like a Weaned Child*

> *Ant. Come, Lord Jesus, for whom we long; fill your people with your blessing.*

O Lord, my heart is not exalted, nor are my eyes lofty.

Neither have I walked in great things, nor in wonders beyond me.

If I were not humble, if my soul were not lifted up; as a weaned child is toward his mother, likewise let it be repaid to my soul.

Let Israel hope in the Lord, from this time forward and forevermore.

Glory 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.

> *Ant. Come, Lord Jesus, for whom we long; fill your people with your blessing.*

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE (GALATIANS 4:4–7)

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

so that he might redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive the adoption of sons.

And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying out: Abba! Father!

And so now he is not a servant, but a son. And if a son, then also an heir through God.

Glory 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.

SHORT READING

ISAIAH 30:19

> O people of Zion, who dwell in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. He will be gracious to you when you cry out; as soon as he hears, he will answer you.

RESPONSORY

V. Come and set us free, Lord God of power.

R. Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

V. Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,

R. and grant us your salvation.

GOSPEL CANTICLE: MAGNIFICAT (LUKE 1:46-55)

THE CANTICLE OF MARY (MAGNIFICAT) (LUKE 1:46–55)

> *Ant. The Lord will come; go out to meet him, saying: "Great is his dominion, and his peace will have no end."*

My soul magnifies the Lord.

And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

Because he has regarded the humility of his handmaid; for behold, from henceforth all generations will call me blessed.

Because he who is powerful has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

And his mercy is from generation to generation for those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.

He has deposed the powerful from their seat, and he has exalted the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has received Israel, his servant, being mindful of his mercy.

As he spoke to our fathers: to Abraham and to his offspring forever.

Glory 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.

> *Ant. The Lord will come; go out to meet him, saying: "Great is his dominion, and his peace will have no end."*

EVENING INTERCESSIONS

As evening falls during this holy season of waiting, let us pray to the Lord who comes, saying:

For the church, that our Advent waiting may be active and hopeful, not passive or fearful: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Come, Lord Jesus.*

For those who hunger for justice and for peace, that the promise of your kingdom may sustain them: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Come, Lord Jesus.*

For the sick and those who care for them, that the healing touch of Christ may be near: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Come, Lord Jesus.*

For all who will travel during this season, that they may journey safely: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Come, Lord Jesus.*

For those who have died, especially those we remember in our hearts this evening, that they may share in the joy of the Lord's coming: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Come, Lord Jesus.*

For our parish community, that our Advent journey together may prepare us well for the joy of Christmas: we pray to you, O Lord. — *Come, Lord Jesus.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as the Lord himself has taught us:

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.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Father, you sent the angel Gabriel to announce that the Word would take on flesh. As we draw near to Christmas, fill our hearts with wonder at the mystery of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless us: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MARIAN ANTIPHON

ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER

Loving Mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea, assist your people who have fallen, yet strive to rise again. To the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator, yet remained a virgin after as before. You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting, have pity on us poor sinners.