Evening Prayer

Thursday, December 24, 2026

Advent, Week 4 — Thursday

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!

Psalm 144 *I Will Extol You, O God My King (Part I)*

> *Ant. Behold, the Lord is coming with power; he will illuminate what is hidden in darkness.*

I will exalt you, O God my King, and I will bless your name forever and ever.

Every day I will bless you, and I will praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the Lord and greatly praiseworthy, and of his greatness there is no end.

Generation after generation will praise your works, and they will declare your power.

They will speak of the magnificence of the glory of your holiness, and they will narrate your wonders.

And they will speak of the virtue of your terrible acts, and they will describe your greatness.

They will pour out the memory of the abundance of your sweetness, and they will rejoice in your justice.

The Lord is gracious and merciful, patient and of great mercy.

The Lord is sweet in all things and his mercy is over all his works.

Let all your works confess to you, O Lord, and let your holy ones bless you.

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. Behold, the Lord is coming with power; he will illuminate what is hidden in darkness.*

Psalm 144 *I Will Extol You, O God My King (Part II)*

> *Ant. Behold, the Lord is coming with power; he will illuminate what is hidden in darkness.*

They will speak of the glory of your kingdom, and they will declare your power,

to make your power known to the sons of men, and the glory of the magnificence of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is a kingdom of all ages, and your dominion is throughout all generations.

The Lord is faithful in all his words and holy in all his works.

The Lord lifts up all who have fallen, and he raises up all who have been crushed.

The eyes of all hope in you, O Lord, and you give them food in due season.

You open your hand and fill every living thing with blessing.

The Lord is just in all his ways and holy in all his works.

The Lord is near to all who call upon him; to all who call upon him in truth.

He will do the will of those who fear him, and he will hear their prayer and save them.

The Lord guards all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless his holy name, forever and ever.

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. Behold, the Lord is coming with power; he will illuminate what is hidden in darkness.*

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE (EPHESIANS 1:3–10)

Blessed is God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, in Christ.

Just as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, so that we would be holy and immaculate in his sight, in charity.

He predestined us into the adoption of sons through Jesus Christ for himself,

according to the purpose of his will, unto the praise of the glory of his grace,

with which he has favored us in his beloved Son.

In him, we have redemption through his blood, the remission of sins, according to the riches of his grace,

which has abounded in us with all wisdom and prudence.

So that he might make known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure,

as he purposed in him, for the stewardship of the fullness of time,

to recapitulate all things in Christ, those in the heavens and those on earth.

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

LUKE 1:28

> Hail, favored one! The Lord is with 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

God of mercy, strengthen our hope this night. When weariness or sorrow weighs us down, remind us of the joy that is coming; 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.