

Lo, He comes with clouds descending,

Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of His train:
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold Him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing Deeply wailing,
Deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture, with what rapture
with what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars.

Yea, amen! let all adore You,
High on Thine eternal throne:
Saviour, take the power and glory;
Claim the kingdom for Thine own.
O come quickly, O come quickly,
O come quickly,
Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone. c Wesley 1707-88

Our Advent proclamation

A day is coming
And we will be with the Lord forever

A day is coming
Life a thief in the night

A day is coming
And we shall know fully

A day is coming
And we shall be without fault

A day is coming
And peace shall reign

Let us pray:

O God of Love, Emmanuel, send your love into our hearts at this time. Help us to be ready for the time of Christ's appearing. May we live holy and godly lives as we look forward to that great day of Jesus' return. Help us by your Spirit to make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with you, only possible through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Exhortation, confession and absolution

Friends in Christ, we come together to meet with God,
and to take our part in the building up of his Church.
We will lift up our hearts in thanks and praise,
hear from God's holy word, and pray for this world, and for ourselves.

The Bible tells us to approach God confidently,
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we do so, we must confess our sins,
seeking forgiveness through God's boundless
goodness and mercy.

So let us draw near to God with sincerity and confidence, and pray together,

**God of all mercy,
we humbly admit that we need your help.
We have wandered from your way.
We have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and have failed to do what is right.
You alone can save us. Have mercy on us,
wipe out our sins and teach us to forgive others.
Bring forth in us the fruit of your Spirit
that we may live the new life to your glory.
This we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.**

Assurance of forgiveness

God desires that none should perish, but that all should turn to Christ, and live. In response to his call we acknowledge our sins. God pardons those who humbly repent, and truly believe the gospel. Therefore we have peace with God, through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

If anybody sins, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2

We give thanks to you Lord, for you are good!

Your steadfast love never ceases.

The Bible readings:

2 Peter 3:10-18 and Luke 1.26-38

This is the word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God

**A Day is Coming
In the mean time**

Come behold the wondrous mystery
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity

In our longing, in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ, who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous mystery
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living, in His suffering
Never trace nor stain of sin

See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law; in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory

See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured, love untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him
Praise the Lord; He is alive!

What a foretaste of deliverance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when he comes

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– Matt Boswell, Michael Bleecker, Matt Papa 2013

Time of prayer

Let us pray
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect for the first Sunday in Advent

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came among us in great humility; that on the last day, when he comes again in his glorious majesty to judge the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Collect for the fourth Sunday in Advent

O Lord, raise up your power and come among us, and with great might succour us, that, whereas through our sins and wickedness we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Continuing in prayer, then concluding:

Closing prayer

Faithful God, you have promised to hear the prayers of all who ask in Jesus' name. In your mercy, accept our prayers. Give us what we have asked in faith, according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.

272 Cross of Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,

Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child, and yet a king;
Born to reign in us for ever;
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By Thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone:
By Thine all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

C Wesley 1744

The Benediction

Christ, the Sun of righteousness shine upon you and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**