

HYMNS, PRAYERS AND READINGS FOR  
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

*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, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave.  
Refrain*

*O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Refrain*

*O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Refrain*

*O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times didst give the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe.  
Refrain*

*Latin 13th century translated by John M Neale (1818-1866)*

In the name of the Father + and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

INTRODUCTION

MASS OF ST THOMAS – DAVID THORNE  
*sung by St Martin's Voices*

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.*

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.*

We worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.*

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.*

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.*

Amen.

Almighty God,  
give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness  
and put upon us the armour of light, now in the time of this  
mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in  
great humility; that in the last day when he shall come again in  
his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we

may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.

ISAIAH 64.1–9

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,  
that the mountains might quake at your presence—  
as when fire kindles brushwood  
and the fire causes water to boil—  
to make your name known to your adversaries,  
and that the nations might tremble at your presence!  
When you did awesome things that we did not look for,  
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.  
From of old no one has heard  
or perceived by the ear,  
no eye has seen a God besides you,  
who acts for those who wait for him.  
You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,  
those who remember you in your ways.  
Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;  
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?  
We have all become like one who is unclean,  
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.  
We all fade like a leaf,  
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.  
There is no one who calls upon your name,  
who rouses himself to take hold of you;  
for you have hidden your face from us,  
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.

But now, O Lord, you are our Father;  
we are the clay, and you are our potter;  
we are all the work of your hand.  
Be not so terribly angry, O Lord,  
and remember not iniquity forever.  
Behold, please look, we are all your people.

MARK 13.24–37

“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.

It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake.

Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

### **Come, thou long-expected Jesus**

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

*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.*

CHARLES WESLEY (1707-1788)

SERMON

INTERCESSIONS

Awaiting his coming in glory,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour 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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

SOLEMN BLESSING & DISMISSAL

May God the Father,  
who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son,  
give you grace to prepare for life eternal.  
May God the Son,  
who comes to us as redeemer and judge,  
reveal to you the path from darkness to light.  
May God the Holy Ghost,  
by whose working the Virgin Mary conceived the Christ,  
help you bear the fruits of holiness.  
and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be amongst you and remain with you, always. Amen.  
Our Lord says, 'I am coming soon.'

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

May the Lord, when he comes,  
find us watching and waiting.

**Amen.**

**Lo, he comes with clouds descending**

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
once for favoured sinners slain;  
thousand thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
alleluia! alleluia! alleluia!  
God appears on earth to reign.

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 thee,  
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,

alleluia! come, Lord, come!

CHARLES WESLEY (1707-1788),  
MARTIN MADAN (1726-1790), JOHN CENNICK (1718-1755)

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