

WELCOME TO
✠ OUR SAVIOR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL ✠
HARTLAND, MICHIGAN

OFFICE OF EVENING PRAYER AND THE GREAT O ANTIPHONS
9 DECEMBER A.D. 2015



THE GREAT “O” ANTIPHONS

The paraphrases of Holy Scripture known as the “Great ‘O’ Antiphons” of Advent have been cherished for centuries by Christian worshipers as most expressive of the church's desire for the Savior. They epitomize that Advent spirit.

Seven in number, the “O Antiphons” are short prayers traditionally sung at evening services during the seven days preceding Christmas Eve. Their name is derived from their initial “O.”

Each antiphon consists of an Old Testament title given to Christ and a petition asking Him to come and fulfill a Scriptural promise or prophecy. In Latin verse, the antiphons form the basis of one of our greatest Advent hymns, “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”

There is a beautiful logic to these antiphons—beginning in the remote vastness of the eternal wisdom, continuing through Moses and the Law, remembering David and his promised descendant who would rule Israel gloriously, touching on the Babylonian captivity and the revelation given through the later prophets that the Messiah was to be more than an earthly king, declaring that He would be King and Savior of all people and finally proclaiming Him as Emmanuel, God with us—they proceed on an ascending scale of excitement to usher in the joy of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord.

The musical setting of the “O Antiphons” that will be sung this evening is written by Olin Jones.

VISITORS Welcome!

We give thanks to the Lord that you are here with us today! If you are visiting, please be sure to introduce yourself to the Pastor and to other members. Take a moment to sign the “Record of Fellowship” booklet located in your pew near the center aisle. *If you don’t have a church home, please leave us with the appropriate information and we will contact you.* We would be delighted to serve you at Our Savior!

THE OFFICE OF EVENING PRAYER

Lutheran Service Book, pgs. 244-252

✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

Bells *(Please stand and face the altar as the bells peal.)*

Service of Light

- L** *The Spirit and the Church cry out:*
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- L** *All those who await His appearance pray:*
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**
- L** *The whole creation pleads:*
- C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Hymn of Light

“Phos Hilaron, Thanksgiving For Light” LSB 244-245

Sit

Psalmody

Psalm 80:1-3, 14, 17; antiphon: Is 62:11b, 30:30, 29



*Say to the daughter of | Zion,**

“Behold, your sal- | vation comes.”

*The LORD will cause his majestic voice | to be heard,**

and you shall have glad- | ness of heart.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph | like a flock!*

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.

Restore us, | O God;*

let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

Turn again, O | God of hosts!*

Look down from | heaven, and see.

But let your hand be on the man of your | right hand,*

the son of man whom you have made strong | for yourself!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

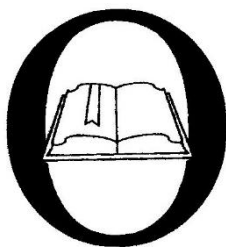
Say to the daughter of | Zion,*

"Behold, your sal- | vation comes."

The LORD will cause his majestic voice | to be heard,*
and you shall have glad- | ness of heart.

THE GREAT "O" ANTIPHONS

Following the reading of each lesson, the Lector announces, "This is the Word of the Lord," and the congregation responds, "THANKS BE TO GOD."



O SAPIENTIA ("O Wisdom . . .")

The dominant theme of the Old Testament is that of "Wisdom." Wisdom proceeds from God, creates and establishes order, and leads His faithful people in righteousness and holiness. From her beginning, the church identified Jesus, the Word of God (John 1:1-3), with the wisdom of the Old Testament. In this antiphon, we call upon the Son to teach us and lead us in the way of justice and righteousness.

Reading

I Corinthians 1:18-31

Stand

Collect

Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Stanza 2) LSB 357

Sit

O ADONAI ("O Lord . . .")



The Lord made Himself known to Moses by revealing His personal name יהוה ("Yahweh" is indicated in most English Bibles today in capital letters "LORD"). God's personal name was too holy to be uttered by the ancient Israelites, so they substituted the word "Adonai," which means "Lord." Today, this name reminds us of God's great deeds of deliverance throughout history—most profoundly, the manifestation of His mercy in the sacrifice of Jesus by way of the cross.

Reading

Exodus 3:1-15

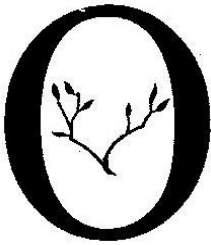
Stand

Collect

Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Stanza 3) LSB 357

Sit



RADIX JESSE ("O Root of Jesse . . .")

In Isaiah 11, the prophet sees the Messiah coming as a "sign of the people." We are also reminded of Jesus' words: "I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." He said this to show by what death He was to die" (John 22:32-33).

Reading

Isaiah 11:1-5, 10-11

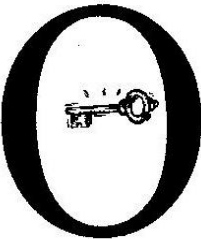
Stand

Collect

Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Stanza 4) LSB 357

Sit



O CLAVIS DAVID ("O Key of David . . .")

It is the Messiah's privilege to open or shut the gate into the kingdom of God. He exercises that work today through His church by the Office of the Keys and Holy Absolution. We cry out to Him to come and rescue us who because of our sins are prisoners of sin, death, and the devil.

Reading

Matthew 16:13-19

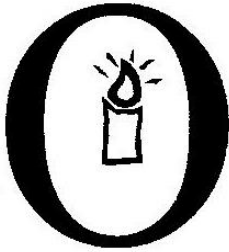
Stand

Collect

Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Stanza 5) LSB 357

Sit



O ORIENS ("O Dayspring . . .")

The picture here is that of Christ who will return at the end of time and whose radiant light will completely dispel the darkness of our hearts and souls. Until then, Christ in His Word and Sacraments, is a "lamp for our feet and a light for our path" (Psalm 119:105). He is a great light shining "on those living in the land of the shadow of death" (Isaiah 9:2).

Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

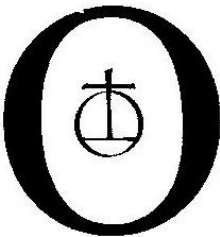
Stand

Collect

Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Stanza 6) LSB 357

Sit



O REX GENTIUM ("O King of Nations. . .")

"The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes" (Mark 12:10-11). In this prayer, the church begs God to come and save those whom He made in His own image, but whose features sin has distorted. It is a prayer that all nations would come to know Christ.

Reading

Jeremiah 10:1-10

Stand

Collect

Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Stanza 7) LSB 357

Sit



O EMMANUEL ("O God With Us. . .")

Emmanuel, "God with us!" We beg our God, our lawgiver, our Messiah, our Savior to come to us. And He comes: as a child born of Mary long ago, in His Word and Holy Sacrament today, and as Judge and Savior at the end of time.

Reading

Isaiah 7:10-17

Stand

Collect

Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Stanza 1) LSB 357

L *In many and various ways God spoke to his people of old by the prophets.*

C *But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His son.*

Canticle

"Magnificat" LSB 248

Lord's Prayer

LSB 251

Benedicamus and Benediction

LSB 252

Hymn at the Retiring Procession

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" LSB 338

Postlude

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" B. Bisbee

✠ SOLI DEO GLORIA ✠

The offering will be received in the narthex as the congregation leaves the Lord's house.

PARTICIPANTS

Officiant

Reverend Christopher I. Thoma

Organist

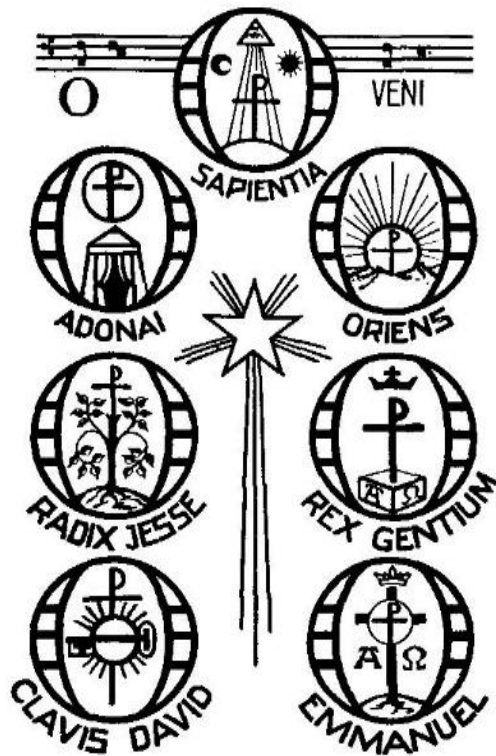
Kantor Jonathan Swett

Cantors

Vici Mrozek and Solomon Spangler

Altar Guild

Debbie Kloeckner, Pamela Raymond, Donna Rose, Brenda Tabbert



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Reverend Dr. Frank J. Pies, Pastor Emeritus; Mr. Jonathan Swett, Kantor

Mrs. Andrea Johnson, School Principal

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COME AND CELEBRATE THE BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON!

WE CONSIDER IT A PRIVILEGE TO SERVE YOU IN AND WITH THE HOLY AND BLESSED GOSPEL OF CHRIST.



The Third Week of Advent

Divine Services: Sunday, 13 December @ 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Children's Christmas Service with Evening Prayer: Wednesday, 16 December @ 7:00 p.m.
Including special music by the children of Our Savior Lutheran Church and School



The Fourth Week of Advent

Divine Services: Sunday, 20 December @ 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.



The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Eve Divine Services: Thursday, 24 December @ 4:30 and 10:30 p.m.

4:30 p.m. including special music by the Choristers and Middle School Handbells

10:30 p.m. including special music by the Cantate, Celebration Ringers, and instrumentalists

Christmas Day Divine Service: Friday, 25 December @ 10:00 a.m.

Including special music by the Cantate and Brass Ensemble



The First Week of Christmas

Divine Services: Sunday, 27 December @ 10:00 a.m.

Eve of the Name of Jesus, New Year's Eve Service: Thursday, 31 December @ 4:30 p.m.

Circumcision and Name of Jesus, New Year's Day Divine Service:

Friday, 1 January 2016 @ 10:00 a.m.

The Second Week of Christmas

Divine Services: Sunday, 3 January 2016 @ 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.



The Week of The Epiphany

Festival of the Epiphany Divine Service: Wednesday, 6 January 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.