

# *Advent Prayer*

## *Those Who Teach are Only God's Voice*

*Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.*

### *Opening Song: 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 you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
Who orders all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go.

### *Opening Prayer (together)*

All-powerful God,  
increase our strength of will for doing good  
that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming  
and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven,  
where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## ***First Reading***

*(John 1:18-29)*

And this is the testimony of John. When the Jews from Jerusalem sent priests and Levites (to him) to ask him, "Who are you?" he admitted and did not deny it, but admitted, "I am not the Messiah." So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?" He said: "I am 'the voice of one crying out in the desert, "Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said." Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet? John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing. The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

## ***Second Reading*** *(from Saint John Baptist de La Salle's Meditation on the Third Sunday of Advent)*

Those who teach are only God's voice. The word which makes God known to those whom they instruct must come from him; it is he who speaks in teachers when they explain him and what is related to him. This is why Saint Peter says, If any speak, let it always be clear that God is speaking by their mouth; if any fulfill a ministry, let them do so as acting only by the power God communicates to them, so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

## ***Response Song***

*(Psalm 27)*

Refrain:      The Lord is my light and my salvation,  
                    Of whom should I be afraid?  
                    Of whom should I be afraid?

Verse:         The Lord is my light and my help; whom should I fear?  
                    The Lord is the stronghold of my life; before whom should I shrink?

Verse:         There is one thing I ask of the Lord; for this I long;  
                    To live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Verse:         I believe I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living;  
                    Hope in him, and take heart. Hope in the Lord!

## ***Prayers of Intercession***

**Leader:**      Christ the Lord, Son of the Living God, light from light, leads us into the light and reveals his holiness. With confidence let us make our prayer:

**All:**           **Come, Lord Jesus!**

**Leader:**       Light that never fades, dispel the mists about us, awaken our faith from sleep, we pray:

**All:**           **Come, Lord Jesus!**

**Leader:**       Guard us from all harm today, may your glory fill us with joy, we pray:

**All:**           **Come, Lord Jesus!**

**Leader:**       Give us unfailing gentleness at all times toward everyone we meet, we pray:

**All:**           **Come, Lord Jesus!**

**Leader:**       Come to create a new earth for us, where there will be justice and peace, we pray:

**All:**           **Come, Lord Jesus!**

**Leader:**       Lord our God, help us to prepare for the coming of Christ your Son.  
May he find us waiting eager in joyful prayer.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, you son, who lives and reigns with  
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All:**           **Amen.**

**Closing Song:**     *Wait for the Lord*

Wait for the Lord whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

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*St. John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us!*  
*Live, Jesus, in our hearts, forever!*