

# *Come, Lord Jesus*

## *An Advent Prayer*

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

### *First Reading*

*(Karl Rahner)*

Every year, my God  
    Your Church celebrates the holy season of Advent.  
Every year we pray those beautiful prayers  
    Of longing and waiting  
    And sing those lovely songs of hope and promise.

Every year we roll up  
    Our needs and yearnings and faithful expectations  
    Into one word: "*Come!*"

And yet, what a strange prayer this is!  
After all, you have already come  
    And pitched your tent among us.  
You have already shared our life with its little joys,  
    Its long days of tedious routine, its bitter end.  
Could we invite you to anything more than this  
    With our "*Come*"?

Could You approach any nearer  
    Than you did when you became the 'Son of Man,'  
    When you adopted our ordinary little ways so thoroughly  
    That it's almost impossible to distinguish you  
    From other human beings?

In spite of all this we pray: "*Come*".  
And this word comes from the bottom of our hearts  
    As it did long ago  
    From the hearts of our forefathers,  
    The kings and the prophets  
    Who saw your day still far off in the distance  
    And fervently blessed its coming.

Indeed, your coming is promised  
    In the very first pages of Holy Scripture,  
    And, yet, on the last page, there still stands the prayer:  
    "*Come, Lord Jesus!*"

## ***Choral Prayer***

*(Lucien Deiss)*

- Group 1:** O Wisdom,  
Issuing from the mouth of the Most High,  
Announced by the prophets:  
**All: Come to teach us the way of salvation.  
Come, O Lord: come save Your people.**
- Group 2:** O Lord,  
Shepherd of the House of Israel,  
Who guides Your people:  
**All: Come to redeem us by the strength of your arm.  
Come, O Lord: come save Your people.**
- Group 1:** O Son of David,  
Standard of people and kings,  
You whom the world implores:  
**All: Come to deliver us, Lord; do not delay.  
Come, O Lord: come save Your people.**
- Group 2:** O Key of David, and Scepter of the House of Israel,  
You who open so no one can close,  
You who close so no one can open:  
**All: Come to free those who wait in darkness.  
Come, O Lord: come save Your people.**
- Group 1:** O Rising Sun,  
Splendor of Eternal Light, and Sun of Justice:  
**All: Come to give light to those who are seated in the shadow of death.  
Come, O Lord: come save Your people.**
- Group 2:** O King of Nations,  
Expectation of peoples, and Cornerstone of the Church:  
**All: Come to deliver those whom You have created.  
Come, O Lord: come save Your People**
- Group 1:** O Emmanuel,  
King and hope of nations, and Savior of all people:  
**All: Come to free us, Lord; do not delay.  
Come, O Lord: come save Your people.**

## ***For Personal Reflection***

*(Matthew 11: 2-6 Gospel for the Third Sunday of Advent)*

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ,  
He sent his disciples to Jesus with the question:  
“Are you the one who is to come,  
or should we look for another?”  
Jesus said to them in reply:  
“Go and tell John what you hear and I see:  
The blind regain their sight,  
The lame walk,  
Lepers are cleansed,  
The deaf hear,  
The dead are raised,  
And the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.  
And blessed is the one who takes no offense in me.”

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## ***Third Reading***

*(Helen Keller)*

We differ, blind and seeing, one from another – not in our senses, but in the use we make of them, in the imagination and courage with which we seek wisdom beyond our senses...

I have walked with people whose eyes are full of light, but who see nothing in wood, sea or sky, nothing in the city streets, nothing in books. What a witless masquerade is this seeing! It were far better to sail forever in the night of blindness, with a sense and feeling and mind, than to be thus content with the mere act of seeing. They have the sunset, the morning skies, the purple of distant hills – yet their souls voyage through this enchanted world with a barren stare.

***Reflect: In what areas of my life am I blind? Ask Jesus to give sight to these areas.***

## *Intercessions*

**Reader:** As we await the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for ourselves and for all those whom God has brought into our lives, that we may find time this Advent to mark a strengthening of relationships.

**All:** **We are poor and we need a Savior. Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

**Reader:** O God of love, desiring to reach into our hearts, come to the unredeemed areas of our lives where we block your love – our jealousy, impatience, hurt and anger.

**All:** **We are poor and we need a Savior. Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

**Reader:** O God of life, come to the wintry branches where our lives bear no fruit, where our efforts have failed, where our courage has faltered, where the sap of energy has died.

**All:** **We are poor and we need a Savior. Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

**Reader:** O God of light, come to the dark depths where we live with obscure fears and untamed forces.

**All:** **We are poor and we need a Savior. Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

**Reader:** We bring before You, Lord, our students and colleagues. We ask that, as your ambassadors, we may be instruments of Your love in their lives.

**All:** **We are poor and we need a Savior. Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

**Reader:** We remember our sick brothers and sisters. We ask You, Lord, to be with them in their sufferings, and to place Your healing hands upon them.

**All:** **We are poor and we need a Savior. Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

**Reader:** We pray for our deceased relatives and friends, and ask that they rest in Your kingdom of light, happiness and peace.

**All:** **We are poor and we need a Savior. Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

**Reader:** For whom and for what else shall we pray?

**All:** **We are poor and we need a Savior. Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

## ***Closing Prayer***

*(Father John Powell SJ)*

There is an old Christian tradition  
That Gods sends each person into this world  
    With a special message to deliver,  
    With a special song to sing for others,  
    With a special act of love to bestow.

No one else can speak my message,  
Or sing my song,  
Or offer my act of love.  
They are entrusted only to me.

According to this tradition, the message may be spoken, the song sung, the act of love delivered

    Only to a few,  
    Or to all the folk in a small town,  
    Or to all the people in a large city,  
    Or even to all the people in the whole world.  
It all depends on God's unique plan for each person.

God's love has been wrapped up in each one of us.  
We must deliver our message.  
We must sing our song.  
We must bestow our act of love.

All these are gifts for us, from God.

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