



Come, Lord Jesus!

Written by: WELS Women's Ministry

Theme:

COME, LORD JESUS! The Latin word adventus means “coming.” The last words in Scripture are “Come, Lord Jesus!” Thus, the season of Advent begins with the end in mind. We enter a new Church Year with our eyes fixed on the End—capital “E”—when Jesus Christ will come and destroy this sin-broken world. If that is what Jesus and his angels are coming to do—destroy the universe with fire (2 Peter 3)—why would we cry out, “Come, Lord Jesus”? Because we know that Jesus has come into our world once before. The Son of God became the Son of Man. From the manger to the cross, Jesus did everything necessary to redeem mankind. Advent is necessary to prepare us for Christmas. It enables us to understand the true significance of Christmas. For Advent allows us to see that because of what Christ did when he came the first time, believers need not fear when he comes again. Instead, we yearn for it. Come, Lord Jesus! *

**This corresponds with the worship planning resource in Year A of the Foundation Resource provided by WELS Congregational Services.*

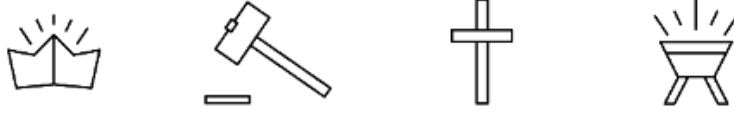
Scripture based on:

The Life of Christ connected with the Church Year

Program notes:

- Shortening the program
 - Words blue font can be removed to shorten the service without losing any important thoughts or concepts.
 - Consider only singing 1 verse of a familiar – simple (easy-to-sing) hymn during a hymn section, rather than the suggested 2-3 verses.
 - Optional videos are suggested (must be purchased on your own) throughout the program – they add value but are not required for content.
- PowerPoint Slides (PPT) are available to compliment the program. PPT slide numbers are listed throughout the program. *Note: If you edit and adjust the PPT file and slides, you may need to adjust your numbering in the program to match.*
- Hymn suggestions are listed in the program as they correspond with each specific part. Hymns outside of *Christian Worship* are also suggested for your use.

| Approximate Length | Suggested Ensemble | Program Inclusions |
|--------------------|---|--|
| 60 min. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 1 Leader ✓ 5 Readers ✓ Musicians ✓ 1 person to run/advance PPT if using additional media options | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicity Checklist • Fonts + Licensing Information • Program Guide • Service Folder • Social Media Graphics • PowerPoint |



Come, Lord Jesus!

As King . . . as Judge . . . as Messiah . . . as Immanuel

PPT Slide 1

PPT Slide 2

WELCOME

Leader: We are so happy you are here during this busy season! We pray our time together will bring a meaningful pause—letting life just stop for a few moments to bring the spiritual encouragement you need to prepare for Christmas during the Advent season.

Some of you may wonder what's so important about this time. Many consider the season following Thanksgiving to be “the Christmas season” already. They don't know the importance of these precious weeks leading up to Jesus' birth, called Advent.

Advent is a word we don't use too often. To explain what Advent is, I want you to think about the arrival of a special guest. It may be a child who's finally home from school, a favorite relative who's flown in for the holidays, or maybe friends who are coming to share Christmas dinner.

Whoever it is, you anticipate the arrival of your guests with excitement. You shop. You decorate. You clean. You get yourself and your home all ready for their coming. And when you FINALLY hear the knock on the door, you jump up, run to the door, hug them, and eagerly welcome them in.

That is the spirit and emotion of Advent.

The word *Advent* literally means “coming” or “arrival.” When related to Christmas, it has to do with the coming of Jesus Christ. During Advent, we eagerly wait and prepare our hearts for the celebration of his birth **AND** the time when he comes again.

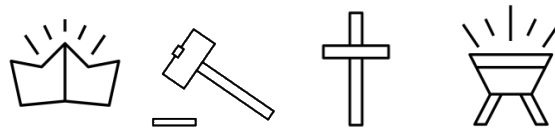
If Advent is a new concept for you, don't worry! You're in the right place. Our prayer is that you discover something that will help bring Christmas to you and your family in a truly meaningful way—a way that helps you focus on the one it's about: Jesus.

Let's pray:

PRAYER

Leader: Lord Jesus, the whirlwind of the season has begun—our schedules, responsibilities, and the people we love are getting busier and busier. We think more about where we're going than who we are with. We focus on when we should arrive instead of who we could encourage. We cross a few things off our to-do list but neglect the blessings you have given us. Come, Lord Jesus, come into our busy, messy, complicated lives with your peace, love, and grace. Come because we need you. Come because we are eagerly and confidently waiting for you. Open our hearts now to receive you as you come to us. Amen.

PPT Slide 3



COME, LORD JESUS

Reader 1: At Christmas time we celebrate how Jesus came into the world as a baby. We rejoice that he came to live perfectly, die sacrificially, and rise victoriously to make it possible for us to live forever with him. And he did that while he was here because he is coming again. In the last words of the Bible, Jesus tells us: I am coming soon!

And our response? "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"

But do we know what that means? Or what to expect? Who is Jesus? And what will happen when he returns?

The best way to answer those questions is to look at Jesus' life. What did he do? What did he say? What did others say about him? *Why?* Because those things tell us who he is. They tell us what he will do and what we can expect.

Think about it. You look forward to a weekend getaway, a night out with friends, or a family dinner because of past experiences with those people. You remember the funny joke, the kind word, or the empathetic smile. These are all little memory deposits that create excitement when you think about what's to come.

In the same way, Jesus' actions and words let us know what we can expect when he returns. During our time together, we'll walk through Jesus' life to see God's promise of deliverance fulfilled and God's plan of salvation completed. From the manger to the cross, we'll see Jesus did everything

necessary to redeem you and me. And because of what Jesus did when he came the first time, believers can look forward to when he returns. Come, Lord Jesus!

PPT Slide 4 (optional)

VIDEO [Christmas Connection](#) (original)
[Christmas Connection](#) (remake)

PPT Slides 5-6

HYMN 324 – O Lord, How Shall I Meet You
496 – Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love
[I Will Wait for You \(Psalm 130\)](#) (Getty)

PPT Slide 7



Come, Lord Jesus—as King

Reader 2: We see how Jesus will come as King at the end of his ministry. On Palm Sunday Jesus rode into Jerusalem as crowds of people shouted “Hosanna to the Son of David!” and laid their coats on the road as if to roll out the red carpet. Their welcome acknowledged that Jesus was from King David’s family and was worthy of royal treatment. It caused such an uproar that the people in the city asked the cheering crowd, “Who is this?”

They could see Jesus had won the crowd’s approval so he must be a good king. *Hosanna* means “save us,” showing that the crowds thought Jesus was powerful and trustworthy. He rode into the epicenter of government and religion. Surely this meant Jesus would enter the palace and rule his kingdom from there.

Unfortunately, this could describe any king. A deeper look notices *the way* Jesus entered the city. Earlier that day Jesus sent his disciples to borrow a donkey. Not just any donkey, but a colt. A baby. A symbol of humility, this animal had never been ridden before. This tells us two very important things.

PPT Slides 8-9

#1: As King, Jesus comes in peace and humility. Earthly kings are known for conquest by force. Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, Pharaoh, and Augustus Caesar are prime examples. Even political leaders today “*campaign*” to win and “*defeat*” their opponents.

Not Jesus. He's different. Although all things are his, he comes in humility and gives mercy and love. He doesn't force or demand. He serves and puts the needs of others before his own. He doesn't lord his majesty over others. Jesus calls us brothers and sisters and heirs to his kingdom.

PPT Slide 10

#2: Jesus' kingdom is a spiritual one. A donkey that had never been ridden before was reserved for religious purposes, showing Jesus was on a spiritual mission. As king, Jesus came to conquer the devil and free us from captivity to sin and death. He came to rule in our hearts and offer eternal life in his heavenly kingdom. Lands, riches, authority, and fame were already his. He came for our souls.

That's why we look forward to his return. Jesus is coming to claim the victory—his people—you and me—and bring us to his eternal kingdom with him forever. Come, Lord Jesus, as King!

PPT Slides 11-13

RESPONSIVE READING

Reader 2: Come, Lord Jesus—as King.

All: Come as the Savior who bears the name of the Lord.

Reader 2: Come, Lord Jesus—as King.

All: Come as the King who lived in humility to save his people from their sins.

Reader 2: Come, Lord Jesus—as King.

All: Come in gentleness to calm our hearts and comfort us in times of anxiety.

Reader 2: Come, Lord Jesus—as King.

All: Come with your peace that guards our hearts and minds.

Reader 2: Come, Lord Jesus—as King.

All: Come be exalted and draw the lost and lonely to your peace.

Reader 2: Come, Lord Jesus—as King.

All: Come let us walk in the light of the Lord.

PPT Slides 14-15

HYMN

Pick 2-3 verses of a hymn

302 – Prepare the Royal Highway

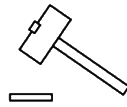
305/306 – Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

309 – The Advent of Our King

319 – Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

[Away in a Manger \(All Glory to Jesus\)](#) by Sovereign Grace Music (CCLI: #7160119)

PPT Slide 16



Come, Lord Jesus—as Judge

Reader 3: Get ready . . . we’ve heard those words our whole life. Get ready to walk out the door. Get ready for the exam. Get ready for bed. To be ready means we are prepared. For events. For disasters. For decisions. For making dinner. For whatever comes. And let’s be honest—either you’re ready or you’re not.

John the Baptist knew the concept well. It was his job to get the people ready for Jesus. And he knew there was only one way to do that. “Repent!” *“Repentance involves a change of mind and heart and a change of direction in daily behavior. The full definition of repentance includes recognizing sin is disobedience against God’s commands, feeling truly sorry for your sin, having a sincere desire to change, and trusting in Jesus Christ alone for forgiveness and salvation”* (The People’s Bible, *Matthew*, p. 35).

Those prepared with this heart and mind will be judged not guilty. How? Because Jesus forgives them. He paid the price to remove their sin so they are declared righteous. Because of that, they look forward to his return when his judgment will gather all the righteous to be with him forever.

Unfortunately, some don’t see it that way. They don’t repent. They insist everything they do is right. Or if they do feel sorry, there’s no attempt to change their behavior. Or worse yet, they believe their behavior change is what makes them ready to stand before Jesus when he returns. Sadly, they won’t be ready. It’s why the message is so clear. “Repent!” Either you’re ready or you’re not.

PPT Slide 17 (optional)

(Optional: Play a silent video segment of a farmer threshing and winnowing grain during this paragraph or pause reading and listen to an explanation from the video before continuing. 1, 2, 3, 4.)

John the Baptist was sent with this message because God wants all people to be ready. He wants us to know what to expect when Jesus returns to judge the world. He described it as an ancient farmer

bringing in the harvest at the end of a long growing season. The farmer worked hard and is eager to enjoy the fruit of his labor. On the threshing floor, he pounds the grain to divide the kernels from the husks, known as chaff. To separate them, he throws them up into the air. The grain drops to the ground and the chaff is blown away by the wind. The farmer is left with the wheat he desires and gathers it in his barns. The chaff is burned.

This is what Jesus will come to do when he comes to judge the world. He will separate and gather the righteous to be with him. Like the farmer, Jesus is looking forward to that day. As God's people, made righteous by what he has done for us, we look forward to that day as well. Come, Lord Jesus, as Judge!

PPT Slides 18-20

RESPONSIVE READING

Reader 3: Come, Lord Jesus—as Judge.

All: Come find us with repentant hearts, ready for your salvation.

Reader 3: Come, Lord Jesus—as Judge.

All: Come find us washed clean with the waters of Baptism, forgiven and renewed.

Reader 3: Come, Lord Jesus—as Judge.

All: Come with righteousness to judge with perfect justice.

Reader 3: Come, Lord Jesus—as Judge.

All: Come with your banner of holiness that unites your people in grace.

Reader 3: Come, Lord Jesus—as Judge.

All: Come find us living in peace with all people for your glory.

Reader 3: Come, Lord Jesus—as Judge.

All: Come! We are filled with hope and peace because we are judged on the works of Jesus.

PPT Slides 21-22

HYMN

Pick 2-3 verses of a hymn

- 311 – Dawning Light of Our Salvation
- 312 – Comfort, Comfort All My People
- 316 – On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
- 321 – God's Own Son Most Holy



Come, Lord Jesus—as Messiah

Reader 4: Unmet expectations are the worst. Especially when you’ve had to wait a long time. God’s people knew what that was like. For centuries they’d waited for the expected Messiah to remove oppression and re-establish the kingdom of Israel. But Jesus wasn’t a political Messiah, and many rejected him because of it.

John the Baptist also had expectations. His ministry was characterized by bold condemnation of sin and a call to repentance. He not only preached this message to those coming to the Jordan River, but he also publicly called out religious and political leaders at the highest levels. When King Herod couldn’t take it anymore, he threw John into prison.

Expecting Jesus would pick up where he left off, John was surprised to find Jesus simply teaching his disciples and preaching in the rural areas of Galilee. From prison, he sent disciples to ask: “Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?” His expectations were unmet.

What about you? What Messiah are you looking for? Who do you expect Jesus to be? A Messiah who provides success, status, and personal happiness? A Messiah who brings world peace and ends social injustice? A Messiah who’s a good teacher for how to live but isn’t bothered by willful sin or a compromising lifestyle? A Messiah who can ensure nothing bad ever happens as an unspoken agreement for following him?

If we’re honest, we have to admit we all struggle with unmet expectations of who Jesus is at times. Uncertain, we come to him with our questions. Like John, we want to know what to expect.

Jesus said, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.” Jesus pointed to the clear evidence in his ministry to reassure the disciples, change John’s expectations, and prove that he was doing exactly what the Bible said the Messiah would do.

Jesus does the same for us. In contrast to our unmet expectations, the Bible gives clear evidence of what he’s done for us. Promises are kept. Guilt is removed. Consciences are freed. Peace is realized. People experience joy and have hope for an eternity to come. With this, Jesus reassures us of his work

in our lives. He reminds us these are so much better than the expectations our wants and desires create. And he proves he is exactly who we need our Messiah to be.

The Messiah we're waiting for may not always do what we want. But he's the Messiah we need. Come, Lord Jesus, as Messiah!

PPT Slide 24 (optional)

VIDEO [The Wrong Christmas Story \(optional\)](#)

PPT Slides 25-27

RESPONSIVE READING

Reader 4: Come, Lord Jesus—as Messiah.

All: Come because I am weak and broken, desperately in need of a Savior.

Reader 4: Come, Lord Jesus—as Messiah.

All: Come as the perfect Lord because I don't even know what I need.

Reader 4: Come, Lord Jesus—as Messiah.

All: Come because I am patiently waiting as a farmer waits for the harvest.

Reader 4: Come, Lord Jesus—as Messiah.

All: Come at the right time when your fields are ready and ripe.

Reader 4: Come, Lord Jesus—as Messiah.

All: Come rescue us and redeem us because of your great mercy.

Reader 4: Come, Lord Jesus—as Messiah.

All: Come crown us with everlasting joy!

PPT Slides 28-29

HYMN

Pick 2-3 verses of a hymn

301 – Savior of the Nations, Come

311 – Dawning Light of Our Salvation

313 – Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

519 – There Is a Redeemer



Come, Lord Jesus—as Immanuel

Reader 5: The last place we look to learn about Jesus is in the Christmas lesson itself. Sometime before Jesus was born, Joseph, his earthly father, learned that Mary, the woman he was engaged to, was pregnant. And the baby was not his. Eager to do what was right by Jewish law *AND* for Mary, Joseph made plans to separate from her quietly to avoid her public humiliation.

What an impossible situation. These are the kind with no easy solution. Yet, *something* has to be done. Everything is hard, and it's just a big mess. It's in these times we feel alone as we try to carry a tremendous burden by ourselves. Job loss, wayward children, a broken marriage, a fall from grace, a natural disaster, a diagnosis, a word you can never take back. These all demand our attention and insist *we* come up with a solution.

Whether we know it or not, that's the impossible situation sin has put us in as well. At some point, the things that cause us guilt and shame need a solution. Dealing with them is hard. And definitely messy. It feels like a tremendous burden we must carry all by ourselves. And yet, *something* has to be done.

Which is why we need to hear the same words Joseph did. In a dream, an angel gave Joseph the solution he needed.

PPT Slide 31

“Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). (Matthew 1:20-23)

Jesus doesn't leave us to figure out our impossible situations on our own. He not only promises to save us, but he also is in the middle of those situations with us. Even when it's hard. Even when it's messy. Even when it seems impossible.

That's why we can look forward to his return. Our impossible situation doesn't keep him away. Instead, he comes with the solution that makes it possible for us to be together forever. Come, Lord Jesus, as Immanuel!

PPT Slides 32-34

RESPONSIVE READING

Reader 5: Come, Lord Jesus—as Immanuel.

All: Come through the womb of a virgin.

Reader 5: Come, Lord Jesus—as Immanuel.

All: Come as the Lord of eternity, wrapped in swaddling clothes.

Reader 5: Come, Lord Jesus—as Immanuel.

All: Come as an infant boy, a baby born to set his people free.

Reader 5: Come, Lord Jesus—as Immanuel.

All: Come with the name “Jesus,” for you will save us from our sins.

Reader 5: Come, Lord Jesus—as Immanuel.

All: Come as the one promised for thousands of years.

Reader 5: Come, Lord Jesus—as Immanuel.

All: Come—you are the Son of God and Son of Man.

PPT Slides 35-36

HYMN

Pick 2-3 verses of a hymn

315 – Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

325 – My Soul in Stillness Waits

328 – The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

330 – Peace Came to Earth

345 – Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

352 – Joy Has Dawned

CLOSING

Leader: Jesus is our King . . . our Judge . . . our Messiah . . . and our Immanuel. He needed to be all of these things to guarantee our salvation. He needed to be true God capable of accomplishing these things and also true man able to experience them as one of us. As King, he needed to ride into Jerusalem on a humble donkey to show us he was willing to trade his heavenly crown for a crown of thorns. As Judge, he calls us to repentance so he can declare us “Not guilty!” because of his death and resurrection. He needed to be the Messiah to fix everything that is broken in our lives and in our world. And he needed to become one of us as a helpless baby, to be Immanuel and save us from our impossible situation.

Because of this, we know what to expect when he returns. Our triumphant King will gather all those he loves, saved, and who believe in him as Savior to be with him forever in heaven. Because of this, we can confidently and joyfully say, Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

Please join me in prayer.

PRAYER

Leader: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this time together to fix our hearts and minds on you. Lord Jesus, you have come to us through your Word and revealed yourself in so many ways. We have seen you as the King, who came in humility and now rules with peace forever. We need you to rule our lives with your holiness. You are the Judge who promises an eternity of perfect justice. We stand in repentance, trusting that Jesus died for our sins. Lord, you are the Messiah who set us free from death and fulfilled every prophecy as our Savior. We put our hope and confidence in what you have done for us. Jesus, you are Immanuel, the God who dwells with us so we are never alone. Keep us from being lonely or feeling left out—remind us you are always with us. Help us remember the path we walked with you today through Scripture. Keep our yearning growing for you and your promise of that glorious, everlasting kingdom when you return. Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

PPT Slide 38

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

Optional Note: We recommend reserving the traditional “Silent Night” candlelight experience for Christmas Eve. It’s tempting for guests to think they’ve had the “Christmas” experience and not return for worship on Christmas Eve. Advent by Candlelight should leave them longing for Christmas. “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” could be used as an alternative.

PPT Slides 39-40

CLOSING HYMN

Pick 2-3 verses of a hymn

327 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

340/341 – Away in a Manger

[O Come, O Come](#) (Mercy Me)