

O Come, O Come:
Thou Wisdom from on High



December 6th, 2023
Immanuel Lutheran Church

*“The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable,
gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial
and sincere.” James 3:17*

Prelude
Ringing of Bells
Welcome

Hymn of Invocation #LSB 850

God of Grace and God of Glory

Stand

Opening Versicles

- L** Who is wise and understanding among you?
- C** **By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.** *James 3:13*
- L** The wisdom from above is first pure,
- C** **then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.** *James 3:17*
- L** Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding,
- C** **For the gain from her is better than gain from silver. And her profit better than gold.**
- L** She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. *Proverbs 3:13-17*
- C** **Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.**
- L** If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God,
- C** **who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.** *James 1:5*
- L** Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight! *Isaiah 5:21*
- C** **The wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their craftiness,”** *1 Corinthians 3:19*
- L** Who is wise and understanding among you?
- C** **By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.** *James 3:13*

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Salvation

- L** Heavenly Father, as we come before your presence tonight, we confess that we have daily sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have not acted wisely in our actions, for we have rather done that which is evil, foolish, and against your good pleasure. We have daily chosen to do that which is right in our own eyes. We have chosen to walk in our own ways of selfishness, greed, envy, pride, and bitterness. Grant us wisdom,

and teach us in the ways to go. Lead us back to You, knowing that with you there is forgiveness. Have mercy on us and grant us life and salvation.

C **Almighty God, merciful Father, You have sent Your Son into the world to be our righteousness and wisdom and to fulfill the demands of the law we could not accomplish. We praise Your holy name for the mercy You have shown us. And we thank You that You have called us into Your church where You daily and richly forgive us our sins. Give us confidence and strength that we are Your people, cherished, loved, and forgiven through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Proverbs 8:1, 3, 17–21, 32–36

¹Does not wisdom call?

Does not understanding raise her voice?

³beside the gates in front of the town,
at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud:

...

¹⁷I love those who love me,
and those who seek me diligently find me.

¹⁸Riches and honor are with me,
enduring wealth and righteousness.

¹⁹My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold,
and my yield than choice silver.

²⁰I walk in the way of righteousness,
in the paths of justice,

²¹granting an inheritance to those who love me,
and filling their treasuries.

...

³²“And now, O sons, listen to me:
blessed are those who keep my ways.

³³Hear instruction and be wise,
and do not neglect it.

³⁴Blessed is the one who listens to me,
watching daily at my gates,
waiting beside my doors.

³⁵For whoever finds me finds life
and obtains favor from the LORD,

³⁶but he who fails to find me injures himself;
all who hate me love death.”

Epistle Reading

James 3:13–18

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be

false to the truth. ¹⁵This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.

¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Gospel Reading

John 1:1–14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Sermon Hymn #357

vv.1-2

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Sermon

Reflection Hymn #367

vv.1-4

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Stand

Prayers of the Church

Concluding Collect

L Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

Departing Hymn #LSB 380

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing