



o come, o come,  
emmanuel  
advent — day 16

— call to worship

*Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. | Psalm 107:1–3*

— meditation

*In the mystery of His incarnation the only-begotten of the Father increased what was ours, but diminished not what was His. | Gregory the Great*

— reflection

Only God could accomplish what to us would be impossible. Gregory reminds us that man gained everything through the incarnation but God lost nothing of His God-ness. Even though we cannot fully understand it, we can appreciate what a sacrifice and work it was for God to enter our world, live a full and sinless life, teach us directly about the kingdom, and die for our punishment. Truly the Son of God is worthy of our worship! Spend a moment in awe of Christ, His power, His love, and His mercy.

— hymn of praise

*Hills of the North, rejoice,  
river and mountain-spring,  
hark to the advent voice;  
valley and lowland, sing:  
Christ comes in righteousness and love,  
he brings salvation from above.*

*Isles of the Southern seas,  
sing to the listening earth,  
carry on every breeze  
hope of a world's new birth:  
In Christ shall all be made anew,  
his word is sure, his promise true.*

*Lands of the East, arise,  
he is your brightest morn,  
greet him with joyous eyes,  
praise shall his path adorn:  
Your seers have longed to know their Lord;  
to you he comes, the final word.*

*Shores of the utmost West,  
lands of the setting sun,  
welcome the heavenly guest  
in whom the dawn has come:  
He brings a never-ending light  
who triumphed o'er our darkest night.*

*Shout, as you journey home,  
songs be in every mouth,  
lo, from the North they come,  
from East and West and South:  
In Jesus all shall find their rest,  
in him the universe be blest.*

**| Charles E. Oakley**