



o come, o come,  
emmanuel  
advent — day 23

— call to worship

*As he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." | Matthew 1:20-21*

— meditation

*Awake, you who lie in the dust, awake and give praise. Behold, the Lord comes with salvation. He comes with salvation, He comes with unction, He comes with glory. Jesus cannot come without salvation, Christ cannot come without unction, nor the Son of God without glory. For He Himself is salvation, He is unction, He is glory, as it is written, "A wise son is the glory of his father." | Bernard of Clairvaux*

— reflection

*Jesus is our glory, our salvation, and our consecration (unction). Knowing that Jesus is the entire point, what does this do for our constant worrying, busyness, and our misdirected affections? Take a few minutes to contemplate Jesus as more than just what you normally think of Him, but as the entire point of all things. Confess to God the places you are giving allegiance to that aren't Him.*

— hymn of praise

*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 thee, O Israel.'*

*O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
who ordered all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
and teach us in her ways to go.*

*O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height;  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.*

*O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free,  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save,*

*and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.*

*O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.*

*O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh!  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.*

*O come, Thou Root of Jesse's tree,  
an ensign of Thy people be;  
before Thee rulers silent fall;  
all peoples on Thy mercy call.*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind,  
in one the hearts of all mankind;  
bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
and be Thyself our King of Peace. | Anonymous*