



Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Winter 2015 Bible Study

"The Great 'O' Antiphons" and "Veni Emmanuel" Leader's Guide

Note: Bible Verses English Standard Version*

The leader and each participant will need access to the words of the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" and the verses "The Great 'O' Antiphons." Words to both are found in *Lutheran Service Book*¹ #357. If you are working with *Lutheran Worship*¹ #31 or *The Lutheran Hymnal*¹ #62, you will need to locate a copy of the antiphon verses by entering "O Antiphons" or by typing <http://www.hymnary.org/hymn/LSB2006/357> into a search engine.

To the Leader: Here is the design sequence of our study: the antiphon; the verse which gives rise to it; one or two supports for that image; how Isaiah's prophecies were revealed in the life of Jesus; what that concept means for and in our lives today; and, finally, a look at the corresponding verse of our hymn.

You may want to vary the approach for the sections of the study, sometimes working as a whole group, sometimes in small groups, sometimes having individuals look up the several verses in a section and then reporting to the whole group. Looking at the Antiphons and the verses of the hymn will be more interesting if the manner is varied there, as well.

If time is limited, you may want to choose two to four of the verses to study as a group, with the others left to independent study, or you may want to look at specific questions for each of the sections. Another option is to ask a limited number of small groups to complete specific sections of the Antiphons study and then report their answers to, and/or lead the discussion for, the larger group.

Note: Before beginning a section of the study, read solo or together, aloud or silently, the Antiphon for that date and verse.

Introduction: "Rejoice! Rejoice!"¹ With Advent comes the singing of the beloved, ancient hymn. Joining voices in its haunting French melody in minor key, we anticipate Messiah's return. In words based on 12th century Latin text, we acknowledge each title and image drawn from the prophecies of Isaiah. Reverently, we petition: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!"¹

Reflected in the stanzas of the hymn are a series of "O" Antiphons¹ that were used in the early centuries of the church at Vespers, along with the *Magnificat*, on the days leading up to Christmas. *Dictionary.com*² defines "antiphon" in ecclesiastical terms as: "1) a psalm, hymn, or prayer sung in alternate parts; 2) a verse or series of verses sung as a prelude or conclusion to some part of the service."

To the Leader: Each "O" Antiphon³ is addressed to Christ using an Old Testament title. Whether by accident or intent, one commonly used version is arranged so that the first letter of each title, last Antiphon to first, creates the Latin phrase *ero cras*, meaning: "Tomorrow, I will be [there]" or "Tomorrow, I will come."

A closer look at the titles, antiphons and corresponding verses of the hymn will enrich our worship. Let's begin.

The words of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" can be found in LSB #357; LW #31; TLH #62.

^{1,2,3,4}References available below in this leader's guide

Opening Prayer: *O Father Almighty, You give us freedom and we sin, yet You continue to grant us forgiveness in Word and Sacrament. We praise You. O Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Man, You willingly became the sacrificial Lamb for our sin and continue to intercede for us before the Father. We thank You. O Holy Spirit, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, You continue to draw us to the Father and the Son, and You sanctify and strengthen us for service. We honor You. O Holy Trinity, enlighten us in our study of Your name, we pray. Amen.*

To the Leader: Read aloud each “O” Antiphon prior to the study of each section.

O SAPIENTIA “O Wisdom” (December 17)

Note: Read the Antiphon solo or together, aloud or silently.

What qualities of wisdom are found in **Isaiah 11:2-3a**? _____

Understanding, counsel and might, knowledge, fear of the Lord.

Isaiah 11: ² And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

How had Jesus demonstrated His wisdom in **Matthew 13:53-54**? _____

His use of parables in teaching the Word; His miraculous, mighty powers in healing and helping.

Matthew 13: ⁵³ And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, ⁵⁴ and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?”

Read **Proverbs 9:10** and **2 Timothy 3:14-17**. What is wisdom, and what is its source? _____

That which is able to make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus; the fear of the Lord; knowledge of the Holy One through the Holy Scriptures

Proverbs 9: ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

2 Timothy 3: ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

What is its value to us? _____

To make us wise for salvation through faith in Christ; useful for teaching, reproof, correction, training in righteousness, completing the man of God, and equipping for every good work.

See also **Proverbs 8:11**. _____

Better than jewels and all that we might desire; (NIV = more precious than rubies.)

Proverbs 8: ¹¹ for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.

Sing or read together verse 2 of our hymn for this study, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

O ADONAI “O Mighty Lord” (December 18)

Note: Read the Antiphon solo or together, aloud or silently.

List the acts of might described in **Isaiah 11:4-5**. _____

With might and right, He shall: judge the poor; decide for the meek; strike the earth with the

rod of His mouth; kill the wicked with the breath of His lips.

Isaiah 11: ⁴ *but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.* ⁵ *Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.*

What do we learn in addition in **Isaiah 33:22**? _____

The Lord is our: judge; lawgiver; king; Savior.

Isaiah 33: ²² *For the Lord is our judge; the Lord is our lawgiver; the Lord is our king; he will save us.*

Read **Romans 7:7**. What is the purpose of the law? _____

So that we will know what sin is [Luther's Small Catechism⁴ lists in "The Purpose of the Law": a curb; a mirror; a rule.]

Romans 7: ⁷ *What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."*

What kind of power does Jesus have? **Colossians 1:16** _____ **John 10:17-18** _____

Matthew 28:18 _____

He had the power to create all things in heaven and earth.

Colossians 1: ¹⁶ *For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.*

He had authority from the Father over His own life.

John 10: ¹⁷ *For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.* ¹⁸ *No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."*

He has all authority in heaven and on earth.

Matthew 28: ¹⁸ *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

What was a sign of God's presence and power among His people in **Exodus 13:21-22** and **1 Kings 8:10-11**? _____

God was present among His people with His might in the cloud and fire.

Exodus 13: ²¹ *And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.* ²² *The pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.*

1 Kings 8: ¹⁰ *And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord,* ¹¹ *so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.*

How did Jesus ascend into heaven, and how will He return? See **Acts 1:9-11**. _____

He was lifted up and hidden from sight by a cloud; He will return the same way.

Acts 1: ⁹ *And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.* ¹⁰ *And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes,* ¹¹ *and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."*

Who has authority to give us life in **Matthew 9:6** _____ and **John 6:68-69**? _____

The Son of Man has the authority to forgive sins and has freed us by His blood. He has the words of eternal life.

Matthew 9: ⁶ *But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he then said to the paralytic—“Rise, pick up your bed and go home.”*

John 6:⁶⁸ *Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”⁶⁹ and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”*

Sing or read together verse 3 of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

O RADIX JESSE “O Root of Jesse” (December 19)

Note: Read the Antiphon solo or together, aloud or silently.

What is **Isaiah’s** prophecy in **11:1** and **10**? _____

The Messiah will be a descendant of Jesse and nations shall seek him.

Isaiah 11: ¹ *There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.* ¹⁰ *In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.*

Who are some of Jesus’ well-known human ancestors listed in **Matthew 1:1-16**? _____

Answers will vary.

Matthew 1: ¹ *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.*

² **Abraham** was the father of Isaac, and **Isaac** the father of Jacob, and **Jacob** the father of **Judah** and his brothers, ³ and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by **Tamar**, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴ and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵ and Salmon the father of Boaz by **Rahab**, and **Boaz** the father of Obed by **Ruth**, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶ and **Jesse** the father of David the king. And **David** was the father of **Solomon** by the wife of Uriah, ⁷ and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, ⁸ and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹ and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰ and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, ¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.¹² And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³ and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴ and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵ and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶ and Jacob the father of **Joseph** the husband of **Mary**, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

In **Luke 3:23-38** (especially verses 31-32)? _____

Answers will vary.

Luke 3: ²³ *Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of **Joseph**, the son of Heli, ²⁴ the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph, ²⁵ the son of Mattathias, the son of **Amos**, the son of **Nahum**, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai, ²⁶ the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda, ²⁷ the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri, ²⁸ the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er, ²⁹ the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, ³⁰ the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of **Joseph**, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim, ³¹ the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of **David**, ³² the son of **Jesse**, the son of Obed, the son of **Boaz**, the son of Sala, the son of Nahshon, ³³ the son of*

*Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Arni, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of **Judah**,³⁴ the son of **Jacob**, the son of **Isaac**, the son of **Abraham**, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor,³⁵ the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah,³⁶ the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of **Noah**, the son of Lamech,³⁷ the son of **Methuselah**, the son of **Enoch**, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan,³⁸ the son of Enos, the son of **Seth**, the son of **Adam**, the son of **God**.*

Read **Romans 15:12**. What does this root mean for us (see also **Ephesians 3:17-19** and surrounding verses)?

He is our ruler and hope -- and we are the Gentiles, the people of the nations outside Israel. Rooted in Christ and His love, we will be strengthened and filled with God's love and fullness.

Romans 15: ¹² *And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."*

(Ephesians 3: ¹⁷ *so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*)

Sing or read together verse 4 of our hymn.

O CLAVIS DAVID “O Key of David” (December 20)

Note: Read the Antiphon solo or together, aloud or silently.

What authority is given in **Isaiah 22:22**? _____

The key of the house of David; what He opens, no one can close and what he closes, no one can open.

Isaiah 22: ²² *And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.*

Note to the Leader: See also Revelation 3:7-8: ⁷ *“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.’”* ⁸ *“I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ...”*

How do **Genesis 49:10** and **2 Samuel 7:16** support both this and the previous antiphon verse as well? _____

Judah is an ancestor of Christ, so the scepter, symbol of a ruler, remains in Judah, as well. God promised David that his descendant would be the everlasting ruler.

Genesis 49: ¹⁰ *The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.*

2 Samuel 7: ¹⁶ *And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”*

Note to Leader: The verses above can also be applied to December 22.

What is the scepter of the Son's kingdom in **Hebrews 1:8**? _____

Uprightness [NIV uses the term “righteousness.”]

Hebrews 1: ⁸ *But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.*

Who recognized Jesus' heritage in **Matthew 21:9**? _____

The crowds on Palm Sunday.

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Matthew 21: ⁹ *And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"*

Read **Galatians 3:22-24** and **John 10:7-10**. What doors have been opened and what rescue has been given to us? _____

The door to our prison of sin and eternal death has been opened and we are rescued by justification through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Door and opened heaven to all who believe.

Galatians 3: ²² *But the Scripture imprisoned everything under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. ²³ Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. ²⁴ So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith.*

John 10: ⁷ *So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

Sing or read together verse 5 of our hymn.

O ORIENS "O Dayspring" (December 21)

Note: Read the Antiphon solo or together, aloud or silently.

According to **Isaiah 9:2**, what has come to the people walking in darkness? _____

A great light.

Isaiah 9: ² *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.*

In the following verses, what kind of healing will occur and for whom? **Malachi 4:2a** _____

The sun of righteousness rises with healing for those who revere God's name.

Malachi 4: ² *But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings.*

Additional verse for the Leader: Psalm 84: ¹¹ For the Lord God is a sun and shield;

In **Isaiah 53:5**? _____

Our transgressions and iniquities are healed by the wounds He suffered as He was chastised in our place. He gives us peace with God and one another.

Isaiah 53: ⁵ *But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.*

How does Jesus describe himself in **John 8:12**? _____

The Light of the world and of life.

John 8: ¹² *Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

How are we changed?

Ephesians 5:8-9 _____

We are to walk as children of light (for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.)

Ephesians 5: ⁸ *for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),*

2 Corinthians 3:18 _____

We are being transformed into His likeness.

2 Corinthians 3: ¹⁸ *And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

And what is to be our response in **Acts 13:47**? _____

We are to be a light for the Gentiles and bring His salvation to the ends of the earth.

Acts 13: ⁴⁷ *For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."*

Sing or read together verse 6.

O REX GENTIUM "O King of the Nations" (December 22)

Note: Read the Antiphon solo or together, aloud or silently.

What will be accomplished in **Isaiah 9:6-7**? _____

A child will be born who will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. He will reign forever with justice and mercy on the throne of David.

Isaiah 9: ⁶ *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.*

What do we learn about this king in **Jeremiah 23:5**? _____

The promised descendant of David, who will deal wisely and execute justice and righteousness.

Jeremiah 23: ⁵ *"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.*

Who recognized His royalty?

Matthew 2:1-2 _____

The Wise Men/Magi.

Matthew 2: ¹ *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."*

John 1:49? _____

Nathanael.

John 1: ⁴⁹ *Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"*

John 19:19? _____

Pilate.

John 19: ¹⁹ *Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."*

Luke 1:30-33? _____

The angel speaking to Mary

Luke 1: ³⁰ *And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the*

throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

John 18:36-37? _____

Jesus Himself (and Pilate).

John 18: ³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.” ³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”

Read **Revelation 17:14** and **Romans 8:16-17**. How are we affected? _____

Those who are called and chosen and faithful will be with the Lamb, safe in His kingdom, when He conquers. As children of God, we are fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.

Revelation 17: ¹⁴ They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”

Romans 8: ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Sing or read together verse 7 of our hymn.

O EMMANUEL “O Emmanuel” (December 23)

Note: Read the Antiphon solo or together, aloud or silently.

What is the prophecy in **Isaiah 7:14**? _____

A virgin will conceive, give birth, and name the child Immanuel/Emmanuel.

Isaiah 7: ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

According to **Matthew 1:18-24a**, who else was involved in naming this child? _____

An angel of the Lord; Joseph.

Matthew 1: ¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But 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. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him:

How does Peter answer Jesus’ question in **Matthew 16:15-16**? _____

“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Matthew 16: ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

What does Jesus call Himself in **Luke 22:70**? _____

Son of God.

Luke 22: ⁷⁰ So they all said, “Are you the Son of God, then?” And he said to them, “You say that I am.”

Who supports His witness in **John 8:17-18**? _____

God the Father who sent Him.

John 8: ¹⁷ *In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true.* ¹⁸ *I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.*”

How is “Emmanuel” explained in **John 1:1-4** and **14**? _____

He is from the beginning, the Word and Creator who became flesh and dwelt among us, and He was/is God.

John 1: ¹ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* ² *He was in the beginning with God.* ³ *All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.* ⁴ *In him was life, and the life was the light of men.* ¹⁴ *And 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.*

What does that mean for us? See **John 10:27-30**. _____

Answers will vary and may include: forgiveness of sins; eternal life; a personal relationship with Christ.

John 10: ²⁷ *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.* ²⁸ *I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.* ²⁹ *My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.* ³⁰ *I and the Father are one.*”

To us? See **Matthew 28:19-20**. _____

Answers will vary and may include: We are to be witnesses of the gospel to all nations, making disciples, baptizing, teaching. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are always with us.

Matthew 28: ¹⁹ *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,* ²⁰ *teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*”

What comfort is given in knowing that Jesus is powerfully present with us, even when hidden from our sight? _____

Answers will vary and may include: Emmanuel comes with His Word and water!

Emmanuel comes in His body and blood! Emmanuel is God with us!

Sing or read together verse 1 of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

If time allows or at home: Complete all sections of the study. **Illustrate** one or more of the antiphons. **Review**, in light of this study, the “Second Article of the Apostles’ Creed” and its explanation in *Luther’s Small Catechism*.⁴ **Study and enjoy** each of the “O” Antiphons and the related verse of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” on their appointed dates during Advent season devotions.

Closing: What a wonderful message we find in this hymn! What a wealth of Scripture! What a Savior! We close with a prayer **based on the Antiphons** that addresses Him using all the titles above.

Closing Prayer: *O Emmanuel, Son of God, Anointed for the nations, our Savior: come and ransom us. O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, permeating all creation, ordering all things: come and teach us. O ruler of the house of Israel, appearing to Moses in the burning bush and giving him the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arms and redeem us. O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom kings are mute and to whom the nations will do homage: come and deliver us. O Key of David, scepter of the house of Israel, opening and closing with authority: come and set free the prisoners who are in the shadow of death. O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting: come and enlighten those in darkness. O King of the nations, longed-for ruler, cornerstone uniting all people, forming us out of clay: come and be our peace. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel! Amen.*

REFERENCES

¹ "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel": *LSB* #357; *LW* #31; *TLH* #62. For both the hymn and the "O" Antiphons, type into a search engine: <http://www.hymnary.org/hymn/LSB2006/357>. To locate the verses, enter "O Antiphons" into a search engine.

²<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/antiphon>

³http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/O_Antiphons

⁴*Luther's Small Catechism*: Several editions are available from Concordia Publishing House at <https://www.cph.org>.

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