

LIVING FAITH

December 15, 2019

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A



THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.' As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? ... A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

In today's Gospel, Jesus is asked by the disciples of John the Baptist, "Are you the One we've been waiting for, or do we need to keep looking?" He answers by reminding John's disciples of all the things they've seen and heard that should be clues that He is indeed the One they have been searching for. What about you? Is Jesus the One you've been searching for? How do you know that you can turn to Him? How do you know that you can trust Him? What are the signs?

PONDER AND DISCUSS

- For adults: Why do you believe in Jesus?
- For children: When people look at you, how would they know that you are a friend of Jesus?

STAR LIGHT, STAR BRIGHT

MYSTERY MATH

Instructions: Solve the math problems. Record the solution in the top boxes. Find the letter that matches the solution number and record in bottom box. Write the word in the sentence below.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

	6	18	9	7	4	20	3
	+ 7	- 3	+ 9	x 2	+ 5	- 6	+ 4
Problem Solution	<input style="width: 30px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 30px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 30px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 30px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 30px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 30px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 30px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
Letter of Alphabet	<input style="width: 30px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 30px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 30px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 30px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 30px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 30px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<input style="width: 30px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>

One of the names given to Jesus is " Bright _____ Star."

Created for Sermons 4 Kids by La Juanna

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THE CHURCH TEACHES WAITING IN ADVENT

People don't like to wait. We get impatient if we have to wait long at a doctor's office, or if the lineup for the cashier at the grocery store is very long. We complain if our computer is too slow, or if we are put on hold on the phone.

So Advent can be a bit of a challenge for us to get our heads around. What are we waiting for? The Christmas toys, candies and decorations have been out on the shelves in the stores since Hallowe'en. Many school and office parties have already happened by the middle of December. And hasn't Jesus already come, anyway?



All you have to do is look into the eyes of a child to know the wonder and anticipation of Advent, to see the joyful anticipation of waiting for Christmas. Children wait for family members to come home for the holidays. They wait for the treats that Christmas brings. They wait for Santa. They wait for gifts.

During Advent, we wait in joy, in hope, and in anticipation for the great event we are about to experience—the feast of Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Christ, who comes into our lives in new ways. And we also wait for the return of Christ in glory at the end of time. As the Church, we wait during Advent and look forward to celebrating the fact that God loves us so much that he sent his Son into the world to save us.



HOPE

LOVE

JOY

PEACE



What about you? What gift would you like to receive this Christmas? How would you like Jesus Christ to enter into your life?

O COME, DIVINE MESSIAH! THE WORLD IN SILENCE WAITS THE DAY
WHEN HOPE SHALL SING ITS TRIUMPH, AND SADNESS FLEE AWAY!

THE "O ANTIPHONS" A TRADITIONAL WAY OF CELEBRATING THE LAST DAYS OF ADVENT

The "O Antiphons" are antiphons used at Vespers of the last seven days of Advent in Western Christian traditions. They are also used as the Alleluia verses on the same days in the Mass.

They are referred to as the "O Antiphons" because the title of each one begins with "O", followed by a name of Christ, one of his attributes mentioned in Scripture. You might recognize these antiphons from the verses of the popular Advent hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." They are:

O Wisdom

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!



O Lord

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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O Root of Jesse

O come, Thou Root of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of hell Thy people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!



O Key of David

O come, Thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O Dayspring, or O Rising Dawn

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer our spirits
by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!



O King of Nations

O come, thou King of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O Emmanuel (God with us)

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!



Watch Busted Halo's Advent Video [here](#).