

Lent 2021

COME!

“Come to me, all who labor and are burdened,
and I will give you rest.”
Matthew 11:28

“The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come.’ And let him who hears say,
‘Come.’ And let him who is thirsty come...”
Revelation 22:17

A Project of Written Reflections
by English I Students

AND

Brief Expressions from RCHS Seniors

VOLUME 7

Routt Catholic High School
Jacksonville, Illinois

“Enter to Grow; Leave to Serve”

COME!

COME: a simple word, a powerful word, a word of INVITATION.

COME is at the center of our faith journey.

The work on this 2021 Lenten Booklet began during Advent (which means coming). We look back in mystery and wonder at Christ COMING, the Word made flesh, as a human baby, hungry and tired and learning and growing like you and me, yet God. We look forward in mystery and wonder when Christ WILL COME again in power and might, as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, defeating evil forever! In this in-between time, we pray, “Thy Kingdom COME. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

It was during Lent in 2020 that we began the “shelter in place” due to COVID-19. While the pandemic still rages, at the time of this writing, vaccines have begun to come. Add to this the rippling effects of the pandemic, along with national turmoil, and our own personal lows and highs. May we find renewed strength and hope in COMING – COMING to Jesus Christ who says, “Come to me, all you that labor and are burdened...” At the heart of Christianity is COME: Christ invites us to COME - We invite Christ to COME - We are equipped, even called, to invite others to COME. The body of Christ, the Church, always intentionally COMES, individually and corporately.

This year’s booklet is divided into sections, with each English I student reflecting upon Scripture focused on the word COME; our RCHS Seniors share brief expressions in contemplating COME, written on the Sunday pages. On the Saturday pages, we have printed poetic wording of hymns from JOURNEYSONGS, Third Edition. We encourage you to open your Bible and read the Scripture that surrounds the highlighted verse(s) for each day. So please COME, accepting Christ’s invitation to new and renewed life. COME, inviting Christ to COME into the mundane and extraordinary, the highs and lows of your life. Extend the invitation to others to COME. Welcome...well, come; come to be made well.

Prayer: *Thank you, Lord Jesus, for Your invitation to come to You, we accept; now we extend an invitation to You, so come, Lord Jesus, and let Your gifts to us be blessed. Give us courage, as You invited, to be invitees with gracious humility and true joy. Amen.*

Janet Chipman, Instructor and Project Coordinator

With appreciation to the officers of
The Marilyn Merris Chapter
of the National English Honor Society at RCHS:
Tori F., President; Ally H., Vice-President;
Emily C., Secretary; Makenna B., Treasurer;
Halle Maul, Grace Rawe, Audrey Zettler, NEHS Project Coordinators

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JESUS INVITES US TO COME

February 17: Ash Wednesday – COME

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” Jesus is an anchor, a healer, a savior. If we learned anything from 2020, it should be that even in the darkest times, Jesus is there – ready and able to help. We were weary and burdened, and He was there to give us rest. He was there to take up our conflicts and relieve them. Now, in 2021, He is still here. Jesus will always be here – waiting for us to come to Him.

Prayer: *God, please grant us the guidance and the courage to make our way back to You. Amen.*

Rachel B.

February 18: Thursday of the First Week of Lent – COME

“Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.’” Luke 18: 15-17 (Matthew 19:14) (Mark 10:14)

Jesus wants us to come to Him. Even though things of the world will try to hold us back, He wants us to come to Him, to follow Him, and to be with Him in heaven. May this season of Lent bring us closer to Jesus. May we receive the kingdom of God like a child.

Prayer: *Dear Lord, thank you for inviting us to come to You, even when the world tries to hold us back. Amen.*

Elsa C.

February 19: Friday of the First Week of Lent – COME

“On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, ‘If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.’”

John 7:37-38

“The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come.’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.” Revelation 22:17

Jesus promises the gift of life-giving water to all who thirst. All they must do is come forward. “Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink” (John 7:37). This is not a thirst to be satiated by water. It can only be satiated by faith. Jesus invites all who thirsts for faith to come in faith. Faith in Jesus Christ is given the name “life-giving water” because once one takes a sip from Him, their souls will live for eternity, fully satisfied.

Prayer: *Father, You have already given Your promise and extended Your hand. Now, let us have the faith to reach out and grasp it. Amen.*

Walter C.

February 20: Saturday of the First Week of Lent – COME

I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS (692)

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down thy head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Behold, I freely give
The living water; thirsty one, stoop down, and drink, and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

(Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889)

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February 21: Sunday of the First Week of Lent – COME

Knowing Christ invites me to come, I come. – Victoria F.

Knowing Christ invites me to come, I know that I can put all of my trust in Him to lead me on this journey and bless me with everything I need and so much more. – Allyson H.

Knowing Christ invites me to come, I understand that He wants to lift the weight off my shoulders and give me rest. Whether that weight be stress, work, or responsibilities, I know that Christ will always be there to help me through it all by prayer. – Abigail B.

Knowing Christ invites me to come, I become more aware of the potential that Christ has given me and I trust the path that He has for me. – Audrey Z.

Knowing Christ invites me to come, I place my trust in Him and try to emulate Him. – Aniya P.

Knowing Christ invites me to come, I will go forth and do what He has sent me on earth to do. – Dorenia M.

Knowing Christ invites me to come, I feel at peace and am comforted. – Abby L.

Knowing Christ invites me to come, I feel loved. – Charles P.

Knowing Christ invites me to come, I trust that Christ will guide me in the right direction. – Austin K.

Knowing Christ invites me to come, I feel comforted by His gloriousness and His goodness. – Wyatt R.

Knowing Christ invites me to come, I believe even when times are bad, everything will be fine. – Cory R.

February 22: Monday of the First Week of Lent – COME

“The apostles returned to Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. And Jesus said to them, ‘Come away by yourselves to a quiet place, and rest a while.’ For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat.” Mark 6:30-31

The apostles seem excited as they return to Jesus, sharing what they did and what they taught. Yet Jesus knows that they, like us, need to come into times of rest and reflection with Him. We, too, need times of quiet in the midst of our busy lives.

Prayer: *Dear God, please help us to give ourselves permission to rest. We need to be committed to time with You. Amen.*

Kellen C.

February 23: Tuesday of the First Week of Lent – COME

“The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples; and he looked at Jesus as he walked, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God!’ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned, and saw them following, and said to them, ‘What do you seek?’ And they said to Jesus, ‘Rabbi’ (which means Teachers), where are you staying?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Come and see.’” John 1:35-39a

Through many Scriptures, Jesus is referred to as the “Lamb” – to be killed, like a lamb, as a sin sacrifice. Jesus is our sacrifice to free us from our sins. Disciples start to follow Jesus with no question after John the Baptist said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” When Jesus asks what they are looking for, it is implied that Jesus asks – even us – why do you choose to follow God? A true follower would want to follow and even stay with Jesus. God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – welcomes any person. Jesus says, “Come, and you will see.” As we come to Jesus, we will learn to understand things that requires seeing with the eyes of faith. If we follow Jesus, we will never be lost. He will always join us on our “travels”.

Prayer: *Dear God, make me a disciple and follower of Jesus. Let me never stray, for I know You welcome me and show endless mercy. Open my mind to what is unknown to me. Amen.*

Cade E.

PERSONAL REFLECTION: JESUS INVITES ME TO COME.

WE INVITE JESUS TO COME

February 24: Second Wednesday of Lent – COME

“As he entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him and saying, ‘Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘I will come and heal him.’ But the centurion answered him, ‘Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed.’” Matthew 8:5-8

This event is very powerful. A centurion invites Jesus to come and heal his servant. When Jesus says He will come, the centurion does not feel worthy to have Jesus come to his house; yet he trusts that Jesus has the power to heal his servant from afar. The Lord is willing to come to us, and we should invite Jesus into our homes, our hearts. We should not be embarrassed to invite Jesus, for He will accept our invitation whether we are rich, poor, a servant, a person of authority, or a leper. Let us invite Jesus to come into our homes, our families, our hearts, and then have the faith and humility of the centurion.

Prayer: *Lord, help us be brave enough to let You come into our homes and our hearts. Amen.*

Bella E.

February 25: Thursday of the Second Week of Lent – COME

“While he was saying these things to them, an official came forward, knelt down before him, and said, ‘My daughter has just died. But come, lay your hand on her, and she will live.’ Jesus rose and followed him, and so did his disciples.” Matthew 9:18-19

Even though Jesus may not have known the daughter of the official, his loving kindness for others causes Jesus to go when the ruler asks Him to come. By using this story as an example, we can see that Jesus cares deeply for others. This is a reminder that no matter what, we should have faith in Jesus. Though we cannot

physically see Jesus, it is in the stories of scripture like this that remind us Jesus is real. Just like the official who came to Jesus in faith, we can come in prayer, asking Jesus to come and help us, too. Although Jesus may not help us in the way we pray (Jesus did raise the ruler's daughter), we trust Jesus to raise us to new life, resurrected life, eternal life.

Prayer: *Lord, Your power is great; Your love is great. Thank You for coming to us and with us. Amen.*

Jenna H.

February 26: Friday of the Second Week of Lent – COME

“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, ‘Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.’” Matthew 2:1-2

The magi are our voice when they ask where the newborn king is. They want to come and worship this king. In asking and then seeking where the newborn king is, the Magi – following the light – worship Jesus and present Jesus gifts. Then they return a different way (Matthew 2:12). By coming to Jesus, their lives take a new course. And so do ours.

Prayer: *Dear Lord, please help me invite You to come into my life each and every day. Amen.*

Kennadi J.

February 27: Saturday of the Second Week of Lent – COME

COME NOW, ALMIGHTY KING (450)

Come now, Almighty King, help us your name to sing,
Help us to praise: Father, all glorious, Ever victorious,
Come, and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

Come now, Incarnate Word, our just and mighty Lord,
Our prayer attend: Come, and your people bless, and give your word
success;
Strengthen your righteousness, Savior and Friend.

Come, Holy Comforter, Your sacred witness bear
In this glad hour: To us your grace impart, and rule in every heart!
Never from us depart, Spirit of power.

(Text: anon., ca. 1757)

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February 28: Second Sunday of Lent – COME

Because I invite Christ to come, I can grow spiritually and become closer to God. – Wyatt R.

Because I invite Christ to come, I feel His presence. – Reed D.

Because I invite Christ to come, I feel comforted that I will always have someone I can count on. – Halle M.

Because I invite Christ to come, I know that I will never be alone. – Bailey McCl.

Because I invite Christ to come, I know He will guide me on my journey. – Madison L.

Because I invite Christ to come, I understand that He is with me every day and that I can rely on Him for support. – Makenna B.

Because I invite Christ to come, I believe that He will use His power to help me in my hard times and while performing tasks. – Brooke Mc.

Because I invite Christ to come, I know I will always have someone supporting me. – Nicholas C.

Because I invite Christ to come, I trust that He will. – Victoria F.

Because I invite Christ to come, I shall have no fears in life because I know there is constantly someone by my side to help me along the way. – Dorenia M.

Because I invite Christ to come, I share His love. – Charles P.

Because I invite Christ to come, I trust that He will lead me in the right direction and never lead me astray. – Bailey McC.

March 1: Monday of the Second Week of Lent – COME

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”

Revelation 3:20

In my mind, I picture Jesus eagerly standing at the door (a person’s heart) as He patiently waits until He is invited to come in. Jesus wants to be in our lives! Perhaps we invite Jesus in by confessing our sins and trusting Him as Lord and Savior, but do we continue to invite Jesus to come into our work place, our family, our life every day? It can be easy to push Jesus out when we are too busy doing other stuff we think is more important, but Jesus is waiting to be invited in to all we do.

Prayer: *Lord, thank You for patiently waiting for us. Guide us in the right path. Amen.*

Alli K.

March 2: Tuesday of the Second Week of Lent – COME

“And Peter answered Jesus, ‘Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water.’ Jesus said, ‘Come.’ So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink, he cried out, ‘Lord, save me.’ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, ‘O man of little faith, why did you doubt?’”

Matthew 14:28-31

Peter asks Jesus to bid him to come, but Peter then “comes” to Jesus in prayer, “Save me.” If we want to come to Jesus, we must believe in Him wholeheartedly. Peter tries coming to Jesus but fails due to his lack of faith. The same thing can easily happen to us if we lose our faith in Jesus and take our eyes off Him. If we hope to make it to Heaven without proper faith in Jesus, we may end up sinking just like Peter in this passage. Peter’s faith grew and grew. When we put all our faith in Jesus, we can find the strength to overcome our fears, so come to Jesus and invite Jesus to come to you.

Prayer: *Dear Lord, lend me Your strength to overcome my greatest fears. Allow me to have faith in You when nothing else makes sense. Understand my faith is genuine when I come into Your Kingdom. Amen.*

Nolan K.

PERSONAL REFLECTION: I INVITE JESUS TO COME.

WE INVITE OTHERS TO COME

March 3: Third Wednesday of Lent – COME

“Come to him, to that living stone, rejected by men but in God’s sight chosen and precious; and like living stones, be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 2:4-6

We are invited to come – to come to Jesus, a living stone, not a stone idol or edifice. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are like living stones being built into a spiritual house – a dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. The acceptable spiritual sacrifices we offer through Jesus Christ, who loves us and comes to us, are our very lives.

Prayer: *Dear Lord, give us the strength to do good things in Your Name as we build Your kingdom. Amen.*

Carter L.

March 4: Thursday of the Third Week of Lent – COME

“So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city, and said to the people, ‘Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?’ They went out of the city and were coming to him.” John 4:28-30

This story seems to be filled with surprise! First of all, Jesus is talking to this woman at a well and knows everything about this woman. In her shock and

surprise, she leaves her water jar, a valued possession, and goes into the city and invites others to come and see. "Can this be the Christ?" More people come to Jesus. Are we filled with joy because Jesus comes to us, and we can invite others to come and see Him, too?

Prayer: *Almighty God, thank You for having Jesus come to us as Your Son and our Savior. May we, too, live with joy and surprise. Amen.*

Ethan M.

March 5: Friday of the Third Week of Lent – COME

"The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him. 'We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.' Nathanael said to Philip, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.'" John 1:43-46

While reading this passage, what are key points for you? For me, I am struck with how we should all have faith in Jesus and follow Him, and to ask others, too. When Philip approaches Nathanael with the invitation to "come and see" Jesus, Nathanael obviously has doubt or at least some prejudice against people of Nazareth! But as you continue to read the story, Nathanael, too, believes that Jesus is the Messiah, the Promised One. Philip extends the invitation to come. Do we?

Prayer: *Dear Lord, please let us trust You and follow You in faith. Amen.*

Hallie M.

March 6: Saturday of the Third Week of Lent – COME

COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME (606)

Come, ye thankful people, come, Raise the song of harvest-home:
All is safely gathered in, Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, does provide for our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come; Raise the song of harvest-home.

Even so, Lord, quickly come, To your final harvest-home;
Gather all your people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin;
There, for ever purified, in your presence to abide:
Come, with all your angels, come; Raise the glorious harvest-home.

(Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871)

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March 7: Third Sunday of Lent - COME

Knowing Christ calls me to invite others to come, I openly speak about Him and invite others to come to know Him. – Grace R.

Knowing Christ calls me to invite others to come, I believe that it is right to share my faith with others, and I try to allow my Christian values to show forth in my everyday life. – Audrey Z.

Knowing Christ calls me to invite others to come, I become closer to Him through the amazing feeling of helping others come to enjoy that same relationship. – Allyson H.

Knowing Christ calls me to invite others to come, I try to set an example through my actions and words. – Aniya P.

Knowing Christ calls me to invite others to come, I will let other people know about His love. – Nicholas C.

Knowing Christ calls me to invite others to come, I love others because that is what He wants me to do. – Madison L.

Knowing Christ calls me to invite others to come, I try to encourage others to go to church and be in His presence. – Abby L.

March 8: Monday of the Third Week of Lent – COME

“Jesus said to them, ‘Come and see.’ They came and saw where Jesus was staying; and they stayed with him that day; for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Jesus, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. Andrew first found his brother Simon, and said to him, ‘We

have found the Messiah' (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him, and said, 'So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas' (which means Peter)." John 1:39-42

When I read these verses, I think of how Jesus always has time for us. "Come," Jesus replies, "and you will see." Jesus is always teaching others, telling parables, but He makes time to spend with individuals, like John and Andrew. Then Andrew goes and gets his brother, telling Simon they had found the Messiah. (I can feel the excitement in Andrew as he invites his brother to come!) Simon, Peter, becomes a follower of Jesus, too. Jesus is worth the wait...and He will be waiting for us at Heaven's gates.

Prayer: *Bless me, Father, and give me the strength to do what I need to do to fulfill Your plan for me. Give me the strength to follow You and to believe in You, even in the darkest of times when it seems all is lost. Watch and guide me, God, as I come and follow You and continue to spread Your good news. Amen.*

Sophia Mc.

March 9: Tuesday of the Third Week of Lent – COME

"Behold, an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a minister of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of all her treasure, had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go up and join the chariot.' So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' And he said, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him." Acts 8:27-31

"Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this scripture he told him the good news of Jesus. And as they went along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, 'See, here is water! What is to prevent my being baptized?' And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him." Acts 8:35-38

In Acts, chapter eight, we can see how anyone is welcome in the church. Many do not understand the Catholic Church at first, but once they become a part of it, they feel they belong. We may not be able to comprehend all that Jesus did for us, but through His death and resurrection, all are welcome to come; everyone and anyone can be forgiven by attending reconciliation to keep our relationship with God strong. Like Philip, we should be willing to help others in understanding the love of Christ Jesus, available for all.

Prayer: *Dear Lord, please help all to feel welcome to join You and be guided in the right direction. Amen.*

Kelly P.

PERSONAL REFLECTION: WE INVITE OTHERS TO COME.

WHY JESUS COMES

March 10: Wednesday of the Third Week of Lent – COME

“He entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, ‘Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today.’ So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they say it they all murmured, ‘He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.’ And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, ‘Behold, Lord, half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost.’” Luke 19:1-10

Zacchaeus is a chief tax collector, identified by others as a ‘sinner’. Yet Jesus invites Himself to Zacchaeus’s house, this sinful man in Jericho who wanted to see Jesus. How did Zacchaeus receive Jesus and His invitation? Joyfully! May we also receive Jesus’s invitation to come with great joy. May we see Jesus as God’s son who “came to seek and to save the lost”.

Prayer: *Thank you, Jesus, for inviting us into Your kingdom. Like Zacchaeus, we become changed. Amen.*

Hong Q.

March 11: Thursday of the Fourth Week of Lent – COME

“The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptable, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy...” I Timothy 1:15-16

In this letter of Paul to Timothy, Paul states quite clearly, “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” Even Paul, (as Saul who persecuted Christians), experiences amazing grace, a complete turn-around, becoming the great missionary, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and inviting others to come. We, too, undeserving as we are, can come to Jesus. “...since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, they are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus...” Romans 3:23-24

Prayer: *Thank you, Lord Jesus, for coming to save us through Your sacrificial love, Your mercy, Your grace! Amen.*

Mrs. C.

March 12: Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent – COME

“The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become the children of God.” John 1:9-12

God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - created the world and us. Then God, in human flesh, Jesus, came into the world, bringing divine light. Jesus came to save us, yet some did not and do not recognize Him. Have we recognized Him as our Savior? Those who come to Jesus, who receive Jesus, who believe Jesus, become His children, the children of God.

Prayer: *Dear God, help me to know You and why You came down to Earth. Help me to recognize and love You. Amen.*

Jacee W.

March 13: Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent – COME

COME, O LONG-EXPECTED JESUS (296)

Come, O long-expected Jesus, Born to set your people free!
From our fears and sins release us, You in whom our rest shall be.

Born your people to deliver, Born a child and yet a king:
Born to reign in us forever, Now Your gracious kingdom bring.

By your own eternal Spirit, Rule in all our hearts alone;
By your all-sufficient merit, Raise us to your glorious throne.

(Text: Charles Wesley, 1070-1788)

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March 14: Fourth Sunday of Lent – COME

Because Christ invites me to come, I feel safe and protected by His divine love.
– Ethan D.

Because Christ invites me to come, I know that He will always be with me and protect me. – Bailey McCl.

Because Christ invites me to come, I listen and follow. – Reed D.

Because Christ invites me to come, I will try my best to pursue His intended path for me. – Makenna B.

Because Christ invites me to come, I try to have silent prayer with Him.
– Jonah H.

Because Christ invites me to come, I have found a home in Him and in the church. Christ has given me a safe place that accepts me completely.
– Emily C.

Because Christ invites me to come, I trust in Him that He will help throughout each day. – Brooke Mc.

Because Christ invites me to come, I willingly open my heart for Him to enter.
– Grace R.

Because Christ invites me to come, I try to be the best I can be with whatever I am doing. – Cory R.

Because Christ invites me to come, I have been able to live my life to the fullest and have everything I need spiritually in my life. – Meadow H.

Because Christ invite me to come, I feel protected by an everlasting love.”
– Bailey McC.

March 15: Monday of the Fourth Week of Lent – COME

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” John 10:10-11

When Jesus first started preaching, many people thought He was just another false prophet until they finally realized He was going to (and He did) lay down His life for “the sheep” – for us. He is the good shepherd; “the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” Jesus came to save us from sin and to give us eternal life.

Prayer: *Dear Lord, You came that we may have life. Please help us to stay faithful even when You may not show us You are there, but You are with us as the good shepherd. Amen.*

Gavin A.

March 16: Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Lent – COME

“You search the scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness to me; yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.” John 5:39-40

Every individual has a unique set of life events and experiences that differ. When reading, you try to connect yourself to the text (plot/story). The same goes for the scriptures; we can perceive them differently. We know that “life” comes to us as we read scripture, but Jesus gives us eternal life through His sacrifice of life. He comes to us that we might have eternal life. The scriptures help to show and prove this. Yet, still people read the words of scripture and somehow still refuse to come to God and have life.

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, shine Your light upon our world and show us the way. Amen.*

Kayla B.

PERSONAL REFLECTION: WHY JESUS COMES.

JESUS WILL COME AGAIN

March 17: Fifth Wednesday of Lent – COME

“When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’” Matthew 25:31-36

In Matthew 25:31-36, Jesus gets straight to the point about what will happen when He comes again on judgment day. Jesus says that He will separate the “sheep from the goats” or the good from the wicked. He tells the “sheep” to take their inheritance and come live with Him in Heaven. He said this because they fed Him when He was hungry, gave Him drink when He was thirsty, invited Him to come in when He was a stranger, gave Him clothes when He was naked, looked after Him when He was sick, and visited Him while He was in prison. “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (40). One thing I like about reading this passage is that Jesus uses many illusions of faith and love in action. We come into the world to help people in need, and in doing so, we do it as unto the Lord.

Prayer: *Lord God, please help me to always do Your will by helping people in need. Amen.*

Conrad C.

March 18: Thursday of the Fifth Week of Lent – COME

“Watch, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the householder had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” Matthew 24:42-44

Because our Lord, Jesus Christ, will come again makes me happy. He comes and will come when we least expect it. He comes and will come in our times of need. He comes and will come to protect us from the evil powers of the Devil. He saves and will save us from sin and destruction. His angels will follow Him to Earth. Jesus will come another time on Earth, defeating the Devil fully and forever. Be ready.

Prayer: *Dear Lord, shine Your light upon us so we may see Your goodness in the world and in the hearts of others. May we be ready until You come again. Amen.*

Dawson D.

March 19: Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent – COME

“Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, every one who pierced him; and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. ‘I am the Alpha and the Omega,’ says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” Revelation 1:7-8

Jesus said, “I am the Alpha and the Omega.” What does this mean? When He says this, Christ is saying that He is the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last letter of the alphabet, meaning He is everything from A to Z and everything in-between. Revelation 1:7 states, “He is coming amid the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him.” Imagine! I think this means that when Jesus Christ comes back, everybody will see Him coming even those who were not believers or people who lived lives of sin and pierced Him with their sins.

Prayer: *Dear God, please help me to put You, my Creator and Savior, before all others. Give me strength to do Your will. Amen.*

Avery K.

March 20: Saturday of the Fifth Week of Lent – COME

COME, CHRISTIANS, JOIN TO SING (571)

Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;
Praise is his gracious choice: Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high; Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend; our cry he will attend;
His love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's joyful shore, His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!

(Text: Christian Henry Bateman, 1813-1889)

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March 21: Fifth Sunday of Lent – COME

Because Christ calls me to invite others to come, I tell others that Christ will always be by their side through everything. Any stress or hardship you have, Christ will take it on Himself, just like He did on the cross with our sins.
– Abigail B.

Because Christ calls me to invite others to come, I trust that I am helping others to share in the life of God and find a home in the church. – Emily C.

Because Christ calls me to invite others to come, I become closer to Him and others through the church. – Austin K.

Because Christ calls me to invite others to come, I try to spread the words and actions of Christ. – Jonah H.

Because Christ calls me to invite others to come, I try to tell others the message of Christ and spread His kindness wherever I go. – Halle M.

Because Christ calls me to invite others to come, I spread the word of Christ to others who may need to hear the message Christ has to offer people and what having Him in their life can do for them. – Meadow H.

Because Christ calls me to invite others to come, I spread His good word to others. – Ethan D.

March 22: Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent – COME

“For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel’s call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”
I Thessalonians 4:15-18

Paul, in this letter to the Thessalonians, tells the faithful of Christ to continue believing that Christ will come for us. Jesus will return and take those who believe in Him back to heaven to live in paradise forever. We will live in happiness with the Lord, who keeps us safe. These words of I Thessalonians 4:15-18 are useful to remember during the times when our lives get difficult. We can draw strength from the hope of Christ’s second coming.

Prayer: *Lord God, help us to focus on You and the promise of Your second coming in glory. Amen.*

Amanda L.

March 23: Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Lent – COME

“And Jesus said to all, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake, he will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words, of him will the Son of man be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.’” Luke 9:23-26

This passage tells us that whoever wants to be a disciple of Christ must take up their cross every day and follow Him, come with Him. If we only care about ourselves then we will have no benefits, losing our life to greed and selfishness. If you sacrifice for Jesus, you gain a life of purpose. Whoever is ashamed of Jesus, Jesus will be ashamed of them when He comes again in His glory.

Prayer: *Lord, I pray that we all follow Your steps, Your life, as disciples with whom You are pleased. Amen.*

Kinzie L.

March 24: Sixth Wednesday of Lent – COME

“And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he appears we may have confidence and not shrink from him in shame at his coming.” 1 John 2:28

When John says, “And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming,” he clearly calls us to continue to follow Jesus. When we continue to follow Jesus, to come to Jesus and ask Him to come to us, we can make sure that we are ready for whenever Christ comes again.

Prayer: *Jesus, please make us ready for when You come again, always willing to prepare our hearts and our minds for You. Amen.*

Clare M.

March 25: Thursday of the Sixth Week of Lent – COME

“So when they had come together, they asked him, ‘Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?’ He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.’ And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 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.’ Acts 1:6-1

Thinking of Jesus coming back to Earth makes me feel excited – excited because I know the world will become a place without violence and evil. When Jesus comes again, we may not know when He does, but when He does, He will bring pure joy and love. When He comes again, He will bring the Kingdom of God down on Earth. Jesus will come again! How might you react to this? What would you do when Jesus appears right in front of you? How will you respond?

Prayer: *Oh Lord, keep us safe and healthy; keep us watchful and ready until You come back. Amen.*

Preston Mc.

March 26: Friday of the Sixth Week of Lent – COME

“Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”
John 14:1-3

We can find comfort in these words of Jesus. He knows that our hearts can be troubled with fear and worry. He encourages us by telling us that He has prepared a place for us in heaven, and that He will come again. In heaven and on earth, Jesus comes to be with us. He is always available to help us. He is the one that helps you by always preparing a place for you.

Prayer: *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.*

Alex Mc.

March 27: Saturday of the Sixth Week of Lent – COME

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY JESUS IS CALLING (530)

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;
See, on the portals he’s waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.
Come home, come home, you who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling for you to come home!

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me?

Come home, come home, you who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling for you to come home!

O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.
Come home, come home, you who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling for you to come home!

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PERSONAL REFLECTION: JESUS WILL COME AGAIN.

COMING TO HOLY WEEK

March 28: Palm Sunday – COME

“The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!’” John 12:12-13

When Jesus came to town, to Jerusalem, it seems almost everyone wanted to greet him. He was like a celebrity, and the townspeople wanted to see Him. The palms in this passage help us to understand why we display palms on this special Sunday. The words of John 12:12-13 help me imagine what those who have passed on into Heaven might say or what we should say in praise that Christ comes!

Prayer: *“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” (Luke 19:38) Amen.*

Claire Mc.

March 29: Monday of Holy Week – COME

“And Jesus told them a parable, to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, ‘In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor regarded man; and there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Vindicate me against my adversary.’ For a while he refused; but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will vindicate her, or she will wear me out by her continual coming.’ And the Lord said, ‘Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God vindicate his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will vindicate them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man comes, will he find faith on earth?’” Luke 18:1-8

The parables of Jesus always have a deep and glorious meaning that help us understand and grow closer to God. This parable in Luke 18 talks about how the judge refused to grant the widow justice, until he could not take much more of the begging. That was the only reason he chose to grant the widow justice (or perhaps because of the fear of getting attacked). This judge, someone who holds great power, differs from God in all possible ways. God does not ignore you or your plea for help. God grants justice, peace, and freedom to those who come to Him. That is why God is to be praised.

Prayer: *Lord God, help us love You and Your will. Guide us in the just path to Your kingdom. We ask You to hear our prayers and do with us as You may. Please do not lead us astray. Defend us against those who try to harm us, and be our shield through all evil. Hold our hands through whatever may happen. Amen.*

Yawo M.

March 30: Tuesday of Holy Week – COME

“Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour?’ No, for this purpose I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.’ Then a voice came down from heaven. ‘I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.’ The crowd standing by heard it and said that it had thundered. Others said, ‘An angel has spoken to him.’ Jesus answered, ‘This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out; and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.’ He said this to show by what death he was to die.” John 12:27-33

“Father, glorify your name.” To glorify is to honor, to praise. Jesus will go with obedience and follow the plan – all the way to the cross – glorifying the Father’s name. God responds back to Jesus, “I have glorified it and will glorify it again” – seeing that Jesus is doing His will. Jesus tells those around Him that the voice did not come for His sake, but for our sake. Since Jesus died on the cross, lifted up, all are invited to believe and receive Him as Savior; for those who do, the response – until He comes again – is to be obedient, like Jesus, to the will of the Father. As we obediently live to glorify God, we enjoy the Kingdom of Heaven – now and forever, and live eternally with Him.

Prayer: I pray, Jesus, that we may have the strength and courage to obediently do God’s will, so that each of our lives may glorify God. Amen.

Kenlee M.

March 31: Wednesday of Holy Week – COME

“I have said all this to you to keep you from falling away. They will put you out of the synagogues; indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. And they will do this because they have not known the Father, nor me. But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you of them. I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless I tell you the truth; it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convince the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment...

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come...

The hour is coming, indeed, it has come, when you will be scattered, every man to his home, and will leave me alone; yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said this to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world.”

John 16:1-8, 13, 32-33

People have done terrible things to and in the name of God. Jesus is trying to forewarn His followers. At this time, the disciples are sad and could not see the reason for Jesus’s departure. He tells them that it is for their own good for Him

to go for the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, to come. Even though it is hard to hear, they must still listen to Him. There are good things coming to the disciples, and they need to be open to the Spirit. Jesus tells the disciples they will teach His message because He has conquered sin!

Prayer: *Lord, help me to listen always to You, even when the things You tell me do not make sense. I know that You know everything and will lead me to the truth. Amen.*

Carter N.

April 1: Holy Thursday – COME

“Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me; and him who comes to me I will not cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me; and this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up at the last day.’” John 6:35-39

“I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.” John 6:51

“For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus Christ on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, ‘This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” I Corinthians 11: 23-26

Jesus says that He has come to do the will of “the one who sent him”. That will was to give His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus says that whoever follows Him will never hunger or thirst and will go with Him to heaven. As we commemorate and remember this Holy Thursday again, may we truly come to Jesus with humble hearts.

Prayer: *Lord, open our eyes to see You clearly and follow You on our journey of faith. Amen.*

Kaden S.

April 2: Good Friday – COME

“One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, ‘Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!’ But the other rebuked him, saying, ‘Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.’ And he said, ‘Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.” Luke 23:39-43

Even though Jesus is dying on the cross, He still wants to save. Jesus forgives the thief who confesses and prays, “Jesus, remember me...” In our world today we need to remember what Jesus did and forgive others, even though they may do wrongs against us. Jesus WELCOMES people into His kingdom every day, helping us to realize the significance of believing in Jesus and knowing that God will forgive us. No sin is too big to be beyond God’s forgiveness. His love for us is more than we can comprehend. May we have love like His for others so that they can realize why Jesus came as Savior.

Prayer: *God, on this holy day, Good Friday, I pray that You will look upon whoever is struggling to find You and give them courage and strength to love You and others. As You remember us, so may we remember You and Your sacrificial love for us. Amen.*

Nolan T.

April 3: Holy Saturday – COME

“And he died for all, that those who live might live no longer for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised...Therefore, if any one is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come.” 2 Corinthians 5:15 and 17

Christ died for all. With His death and resurrection, the old goes and new life comes. We become a new creation, and we live for Christ because He died for us. New life has come!

Prayer: *Dear Lord, You died for me; now help me to live for You. Amen.*

Jack W.

April 4: EASTER – COME

“Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulcher. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid; for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has risen as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. Lo, I have told you.’ So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, ‘Hail!’ And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and tell my brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.” Matthew 28:1-10

“On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” John 20:19-21

Even when doors are shut, Jesus comes. “Peace be with you.”

Even when stones stand in our way, Jesus still moves stones and lets us come.

When words seem so inadequate on this Easter Day, this Day of Resurrection,
simply come and worship Him.

Then go forth, with joy-filled hope, faith-filled love.

Then go forth, inviting others to come.

PERSONAL REFLECTION: COME!

“We are created to make God’s dreams come true.”

Pope Francis – 22 November 2020

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Here are 121.

