



The Advent of Our King

331



1 The ad-vent of our King Our prayers must now em-ploy,
 2 The ev-er-last-ing Son In-car-nate deigns to be,
 3 O Zi-on's daugh-ter, rise To meet your low-ly King,
 4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a-gain



And we must hymns of wel-come sing In strains of ho-ly joy.
 Him-self a ser-vant's form puts on To set His ser-vants free.
 Nor let your faith-less heart de-spise The peace He comes to bring.
 And His true mem-bers all u-nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5 Before the dawning day
 Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
 The sinful self be put away,
 The new self now put on.

6 All glory to the Son,
 Who comes to set us free,
 With Father, Spirit, ever one
 Through all eternity.

Tune and text: Public domain

“The Advent of Our King”

The coming of a king was a big deal for people in the ancient world. They would sing songs of adoration as the king passed. Our *Kyrie* is a song of awe and honor when we sing, “Lord, have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.”

This hymn begins with gushing forth at the anticipation of the coming of *The King*. The first verse ends “In strains of holy joy.” The word *strains* suggests a high level of intensity of praise.

Verse 2 points out that this is the Son of God, who took human form to take our place under the Law. He is the true Servant who sets us, his servants, free from the consequences of our sins.

Jesus’ lowly status as voiced in “to meet your lowly King” (v. 3), still brings a peace that passes all human understanding. This time before Christmas can bring much stress and strain as we dash hither and yon. His peace can bring us a calm heart and soul.

Jesus’ stature is elevated in verse 4 because he will come once again at the end of time to take us to be with him in heaven. In anticipation of the glorious day, he helps us put off our old sinful being and embrace a new self altogether.

With all this good news, we end the hymn with a doxology to the Triune God.

Prayer: Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for giving up the comforts and glory of heaven to come and rescue us from our sins. Give us calm in the midst of the hustle and bustle of this season and help us keep our eyes focused on you. Amen.