



**The First Sunday
in the Season of Advent**
Saturday at 6:30 PM
Sunday at 7:45 AM & 10:15 AM

Advent Gathering Rite 2023

The pastor speaks words in regular print.

The congregation responds with words in bold print.

Italicized words are sung. Join in as comfortable.

Music will play throughout our gathering rite except during the Absolution to highlight the work of the coming King for us.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prepare the Royal Highway; the King of kings is near!

Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear!

Then great the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:

Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's Word!

Prepare the Royal Highway #302:1

Confession

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

God's people, see Him coming: your own eternal King!

Palm branches strew before Him!

Spread garments! Shout and sing!

God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!

Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's Word!

Prepare the Royal Highway #302:2

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray; God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised King!

Your King, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too should bring.

All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him!

Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's Word!

Prepare the Royal Highway #302:3

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, Who gave His life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel

That mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of the God appear.

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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #327:1

We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus, who is coming near. He will come to gather his people from everywhere, both the living and the dead. He is coming to save us.

We remember Jesus, who will come at the end of time. None of us know what day that will be.

We hear his call to watch.

We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.

When Jesus Christ came into our world, he hid His glory and power. He humbled Himself so that sinners would be drawn to Him rather than driven away in fear. He came to save us!

He will come again in power and glory to take us to be with Him forever in heaven.

One blue Advent candle is lit as we sing a stanza of “*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.*”

***O, come, O high exalted King, Salvation for Your people bring!
Prepared we stand upon Your Word,
Your joyous promises are heard.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!***

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #327

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1–9

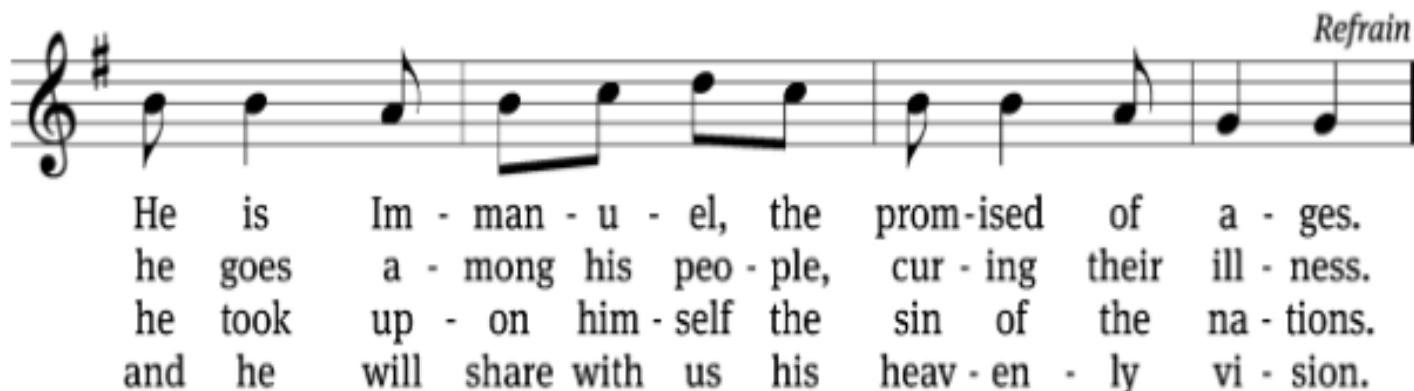
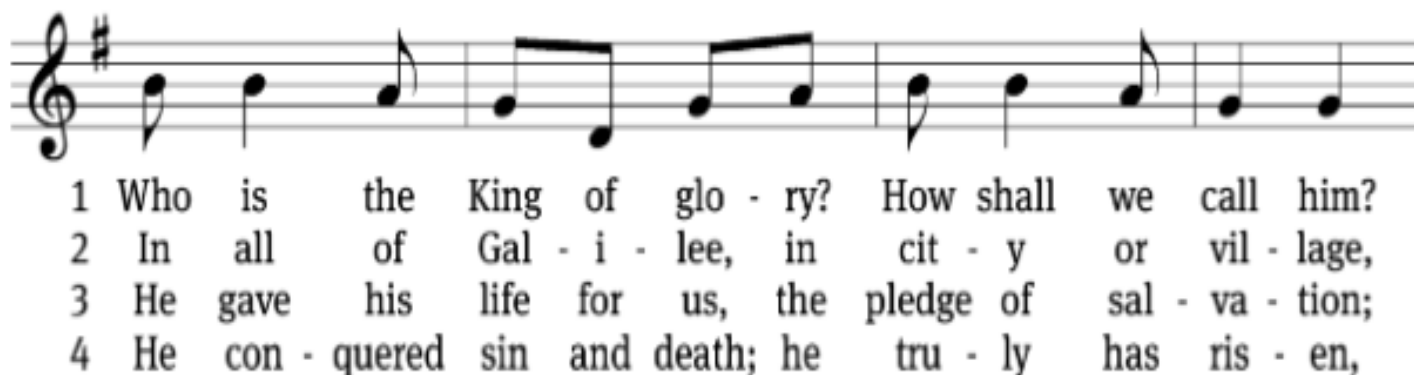
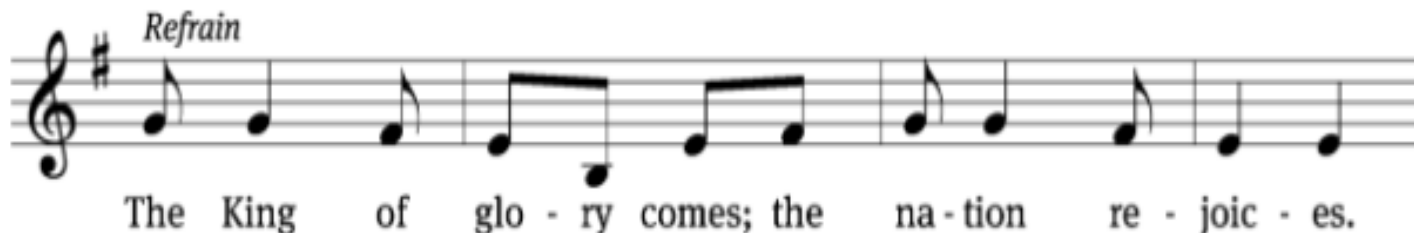
Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! ²As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! ³For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. ⁴Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. ⁵You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? ⁶All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. ⁷No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be angry beyond measure, O LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look upon us, we pray, for we are all your people.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

548 The King of Glory Comes

CW 548



Text: Willard F. Jabusch, 1930–2018, alt.

Tune: Israeli, 20th cent.

Text: © 1966, 1985 Willard F. Jabusch, admin. OCP Publications.

Tune: Public domain

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge— ⁶ because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

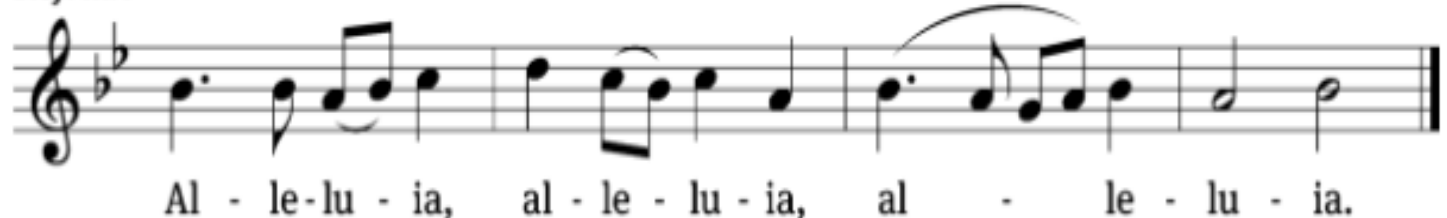
Verse of the Day: Revelation 22:20

He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation



Refrain



Tone



Refrain

Gospel: *Mark 11:1-10*

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, ² saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³ If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ tell him, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’ ” ⁴ They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, ⁵ some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” ⁶ They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. ⁷ When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, O Christ!



HYMN OF THE DAY

SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS COME #301



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, by the
 3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child of the
 4 From the Fa - ther's throne he came and as -
 5 Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, praise to



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
 Spir - it of our God was the Word of
 vir - gin un - de - filed, though by all the
 cend - ed to the same, cap - tive lead - ing
 God the Son, our King, praise to God the



heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 God made flesh, wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 world dis - owned, yet to be in heav'n en - throned!
 death and hell. High the song of tri - umph swell!
 Spir - it be ev - er and e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–1876, alt.; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; Ambrose of Milan, 340–397, abr.

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian* and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*(*The original text here reads "catholic," a word meaning "universal." The Church consists of all believers in heaven and on earth, of every time in history.)*

OFFERING

The offering is collected as ushers pass the offering plates among those gathered and then presented at the altar of God while the **congregation stands and sings our offering hymn**. *On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made (1 Cor. 16:2).*

OFFERING HYMN

LET THE EARTH NOW PRAISE THE LORD #315:4,6



4 Sav - ior, hear my wel - come cry— loud ho - san - nas
6 And, when you shall come a - gain as a glo - rious

lift - ed high! King of glo - ry, en - ter in;
king to reign, I with joy may see your face,

cleanse my soul of ev - 'ry sin.
free - ly ran - somed by your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–1659, abr.; (st. 4): tr. Christian Worship, 2021; (st. 6): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter

Text (st. 4): © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House.

Text (st. 6) and tune: Public domain

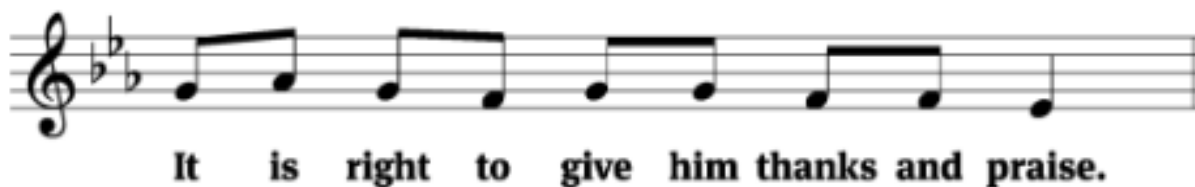
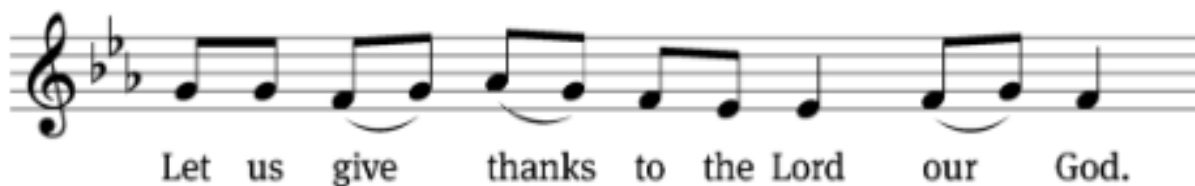
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH



THE SACRAMENT

Preface

CW 165



It is truly Good and right that we should at all times ... we praise Your holy Name and join their glorious song.

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 167

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in a soprano or alto clef. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts: heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est." The lyrics are aligned with the notes on the staves.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -
san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he,
bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD'S 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. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Words of Institution

The musical score is written for two voices, Treble and Bass, in a key of one flat (B-flat major or D minor). It consists of five systems of staves. The lyrics are: "O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us your peace. A - men." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes. The lyrics are placed below the corresponding staves.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us your peace. A - men.

Distribution

309 The Advent of Our King

CW 309



- 1 The ad - vent of our King our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son, in flesh con - tent 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 a 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 old self all 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.

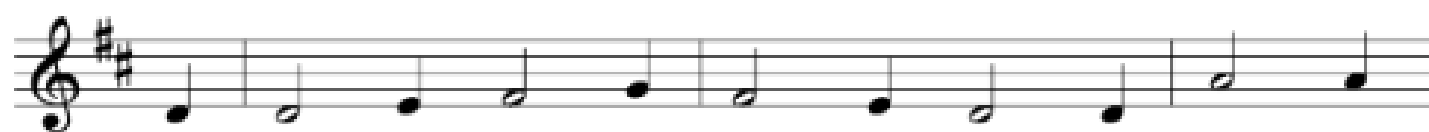
Text: tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, alt.; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749

Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–1776

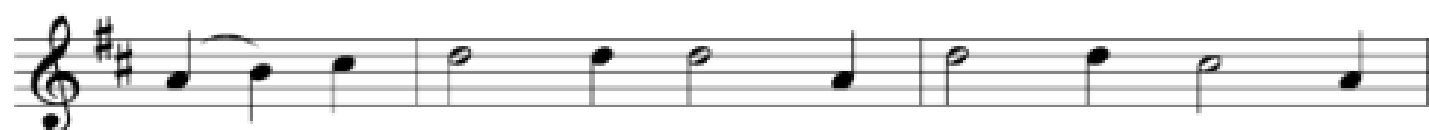
Text and tune: Public domain

320 As Angels Joyed with One Accord

CW 320



1 As an - gels joyed with one ac - cord up - on the
 2 He came, not clothed in maj - es - ty nor pow'r that
 3 This done, he soared to God's right hand, yet or - phaned
 4 In ev - 'ry age— let praise a - bound— he comes; we



ad - vent of our Lord, so let us glad - ly
 suits his de - i - ty. In low - ly state he
 not his cho - sen band, for he, not bound in
 hear his voice re - sound. His glo - rious gos - pel



praise the name of him who from the Fa - ther came.
 walked till he in dy - ing set us cap - tives free.
 grace and pow'r, at - tends his own each day and hour.
 does not cease to bring us com - fort, joy, and peace.

5 He comes in water to the child
 and cleanses it, from birth defiled.
 This washing seals his pard'ning grace
 and shows the Father's kindly face.

6 He comes to us in bread and wine
 to give himself and gifts divine.
 O praise him for this sacrament,
 redeeming love's great testament!

7 Lift up your heads! All grief and pain
 shall vanish when he comes again.
 Where we shall see him face to face,
 there joy alone shall have a place.

Text: Werner H. Franzmann, 1905–1996, abr., alt.

Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Text: © 1993 Werner H. Franzmann, admin. Northwestern Publishing House.

Tune: Public domain

Please stand!

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good

His mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks almighty God that You have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it You will strengthen our faith in You and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

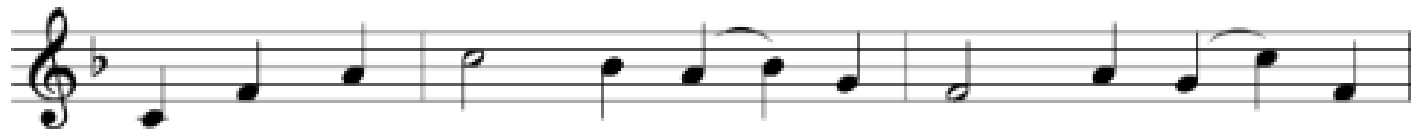
Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes #313

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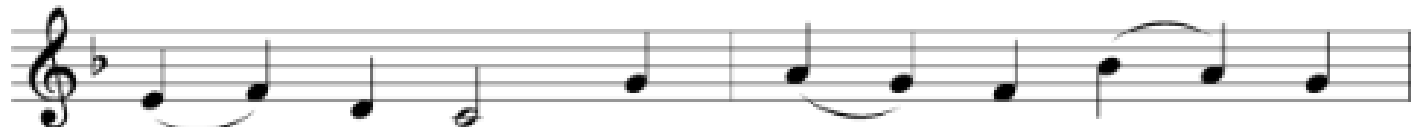


313 Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

CW 313



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751, abr., alt.

Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain