



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran

Church, School, & Preschool

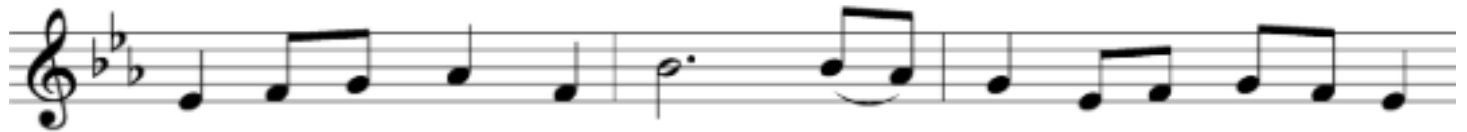
Advent 2024
Getting Ready for a Real Christmas!

Large Print Service Folder
12/7/2024 & 12/8/2024

OPENING HYMN: There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying | CW# 308



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a
2 O — Chris - tians, you bring — good ti - dings; get
3 But the Word of our God is e - ter - nal; the



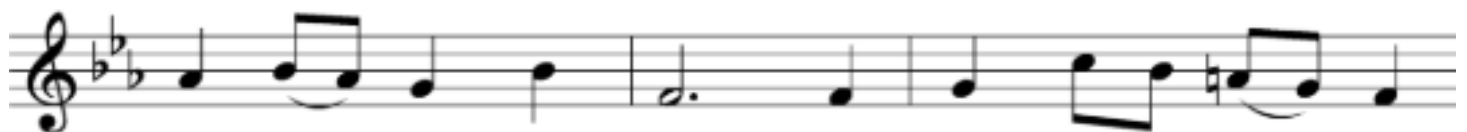
call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
arm of the Lord is strong. He stands in the midst of the



high - way, a high - way for our God!
peo - ple the com - ing of their King.
na - tions, and he shall right the wrong.



The — val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
Like the flow'rs of the field they — per - ish; like
He shall feed his — flock like a shep - herd, the



loft - y hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
grass their works de - cay. The pow'r and — pomp of
lambs shall gent - ly hold, to pas - tures of peace shall



plac - es where the Lord our — God — may go!
na - tions shall — pass like a dream — a - way.
lead them, and — bring them — safe to his fold.

Text: James L. Milligan, 1876–1961, alt.

Tune: Henry II. Bancroft, 1904–1988

Text: Public domain

Tune: © 1938 Estate of Eldred Bancroft, admin. B. Burrows.

INVOCATION (calling on God's Name begins our worship)

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

CONFESSION (We acknowledge sins, inherited and actual)

God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.

James 4:6,10

Dear friends, the season of Advent is a time of preparation as we await Christ's second coming on the Last Day. We prepare our hearts to meet him as we humbly seek his forgiveness.

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.

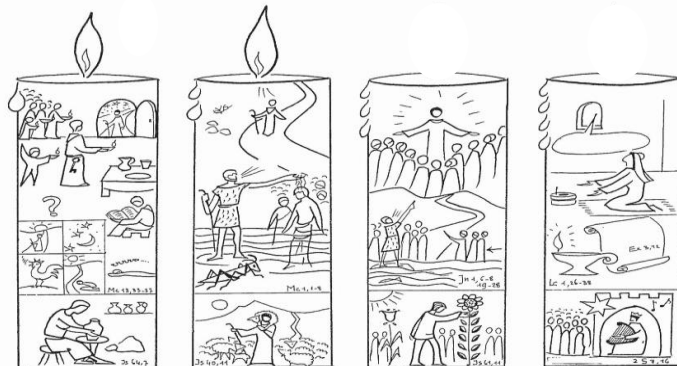
Trusting in Him, I pray: God have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

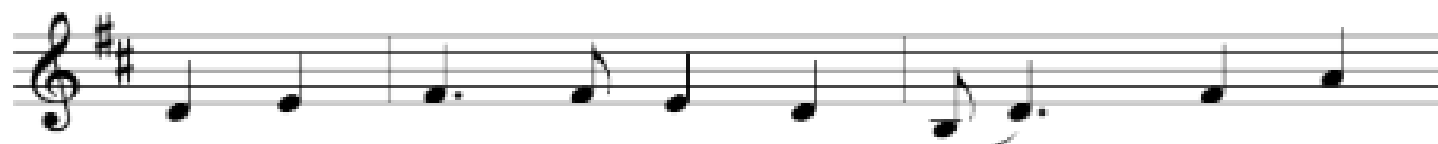
But with You there is forgiveness; therefore, you are feared.

Psalms 130:3,4



956 Holy Is Your Name

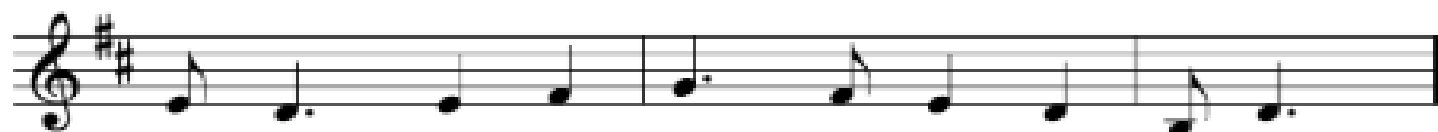
CW 956 sts. 1, Ref, 2-3



1 My ——— soul is filled with joy as I
2 I am low - ly as a child, but I
3 I pro - claim your pow'r, O God! You work



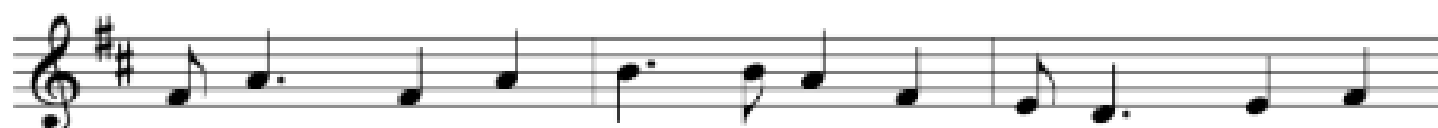
sing to God, my Sav - ior. You have looked up - on your
know from this day for - ward that my name will be re -
won - ders for your ser - vants; you have scat - tered the proud -



ser - vant, you have vis - it - ed your peo - ple.
mem - bered, and the world will call me bless - ed.
heart - ed, you have lift - ed up the low - ly.



And ho - ly is your name through all gen - er -



a - tions! Ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy to the



peo - ple you have cho - sen, and ho - ly is your name!

Text: anonymous, alt.

Tune: Scottish

Text and tune: Public domain

Our Hymn is based on the Magnificat, the song of Mary rejoicing at the fact that she would be the mother of Jesus.

Absolution (We hear the announcement of sin forgiven)

God's promise to Abraham and his descendants was fulfilled in the coming of His Son. Jesus Christ humbled Himself by submitting to God's law. He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross. God promises to lift up the humble and fill the hungry with good things because of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, so that we through His poverty might become rich. *2 Corinthians 8:9*

Even as we await Christ's second coming, He comes to us here and now in the words He gives His messengers to speak: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Sung: to the tune previously sung as the candles are lit

*Now we light two advent candles,
we approach in deep repentance,
may our ways be straight and narrow,
waiting for the great Messiah.
And holy is Your Name, through all generations!
Everlasting Is Your mercy to the people You have chosen,
and holy is Your name!*

We light two Advent candles, remembering Jesus, who came in history. He came into a world of sin and death.

We remember Jesus, who came as the promised Messiah. John the Baptist prepared the way of the Lord.

We hear his call to repent.

We light two Advent candles as a sign of our repentance and desire for renewal.

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

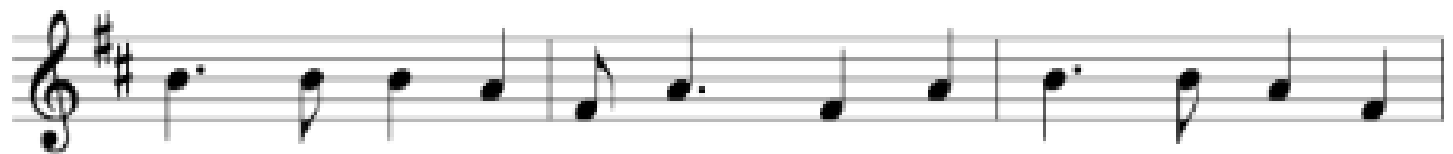
Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blest.

956 Holy Is Your Name

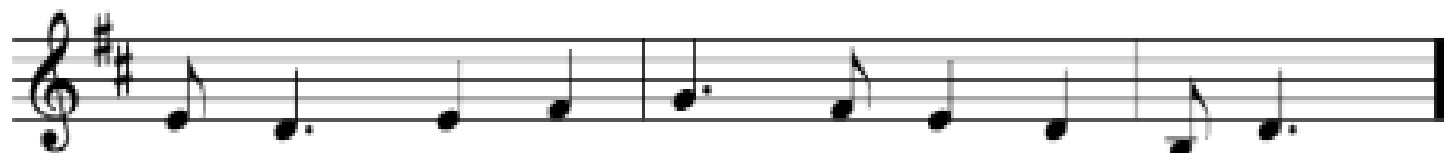
CW 956 sts. Ref, 4-5



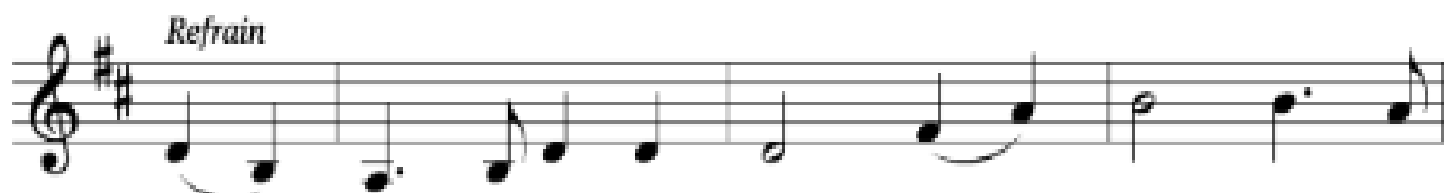
4 To the hun - gry you give food, send the
5 In your love you now ful - fill all you



rich a - way with noth - ing. In your mer - cy you are
prom - ised to your peo - ple. I will praise you, God, my



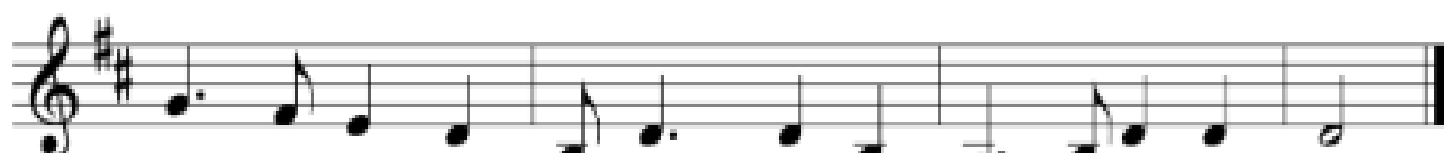
mind - ful of the peo - ple you have cho - sen.
Sav - ior, ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy.



And ho - ly is your name through all gen - er -



a - tions! Ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy to the



peo - ple you have cho - sen, and ho - ly is your name!

Text: anonymous, alt.

Tune: Scottish

Text and tune: Public domain

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON: Malachi 3:1-7

“See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the LORD Almighty.² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap.³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness,⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the LORD, as in days gone by, as in former years.⁵ “So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who oppress the widows and the fatherless, and deprive aliens of justice, but do not fear me,” says the LORD Almighty.⁶ “I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.⁷ Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty.



PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 66

Refrain

Let all the earth cry out to the
Lord, cry out to the Lord with joy!

Verses

1 Sing to the Lord, all you on earth, sing praise to the
2 Let the whole world wor - ship and sing, ac - claim - ing his

gran - deur of God; pro-claim his glo - ri-ous name!
won - der - ful deeds; the might of God is at hand!

Refrain

Verse

3 Lis - ten now, all you who trust in the Lord,

our God has done great things for us,

an - swered our prayers with his kind - ness.

Refrain

Text: Steven C. Warner

Tune: Steven C. Warner

Text and tune: © 1984 Steven C. Warner Published by OCP.

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 1:3-11

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Verse of the Day: Luke 3:4,6

Prepare the Way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him. And all people will see God's salvation.

Congregation Sings

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These Words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. ³ He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the _____ sins. ⁴ As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. ⁵ Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. ⁶ And all mankind will see God's salvation.' "

HYMN OF THE DAY:

On Jordan's Banks The Baptist's Cry | CW# 316



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin and fur - nished
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and lift us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; come, then, and lis - ten,
 for a Guest with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 up to fall no more; O make your face on
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings good news a - bout the King of kings.
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 us to shine, and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: tr. composite; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749

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

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

after the sermon, please stand



Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

please be seated

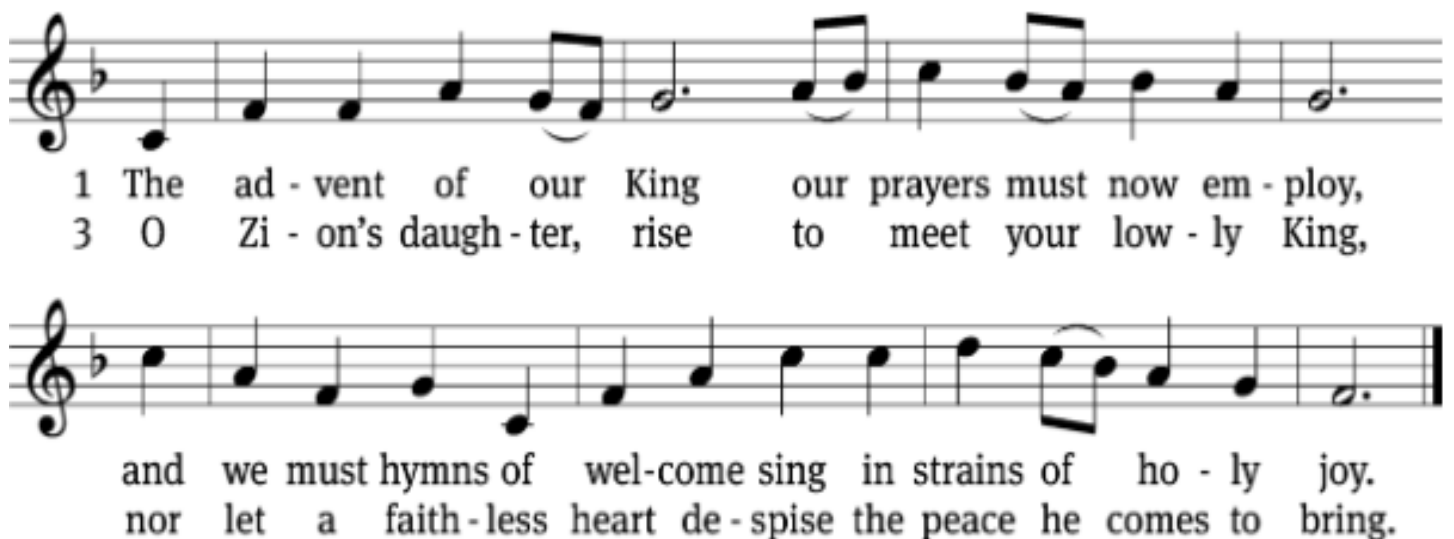
THE GATHERING OF THE OFFERING

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).

The offering plates will be passed through the congregation. After collection, the ushers will take the offering plates to the front to present them at the altar of God. As the plates come forward, please stand and sing our offering hymn.

OFFERING HYMN

The Advent of Our King | CW#309:1,3



1 The ad - vent of our King our prayers must now em - ploy,
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise to meet your low - ly King,

and we must hymns of wel - come sing in strains of ho - ly joy.
nor let a faith - less heart de - spise the peace he comes to bring.

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

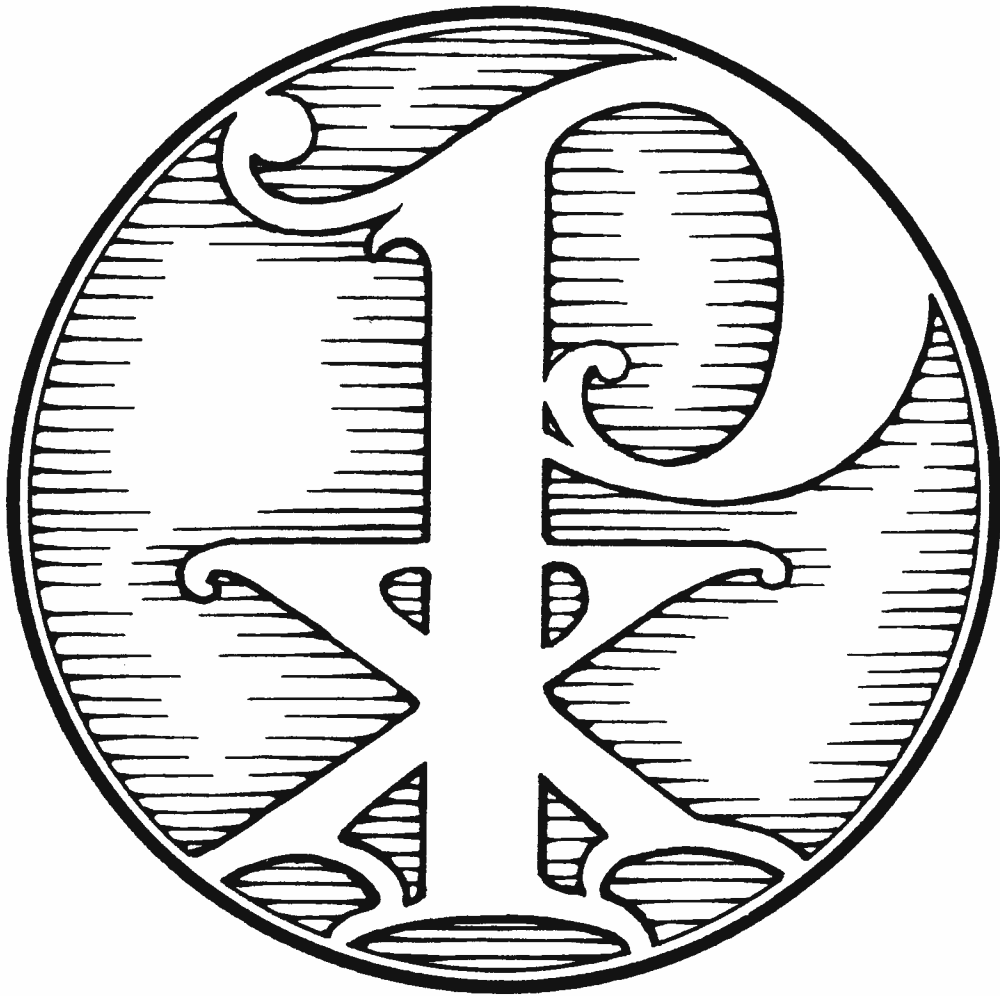
Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–1776

Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.





1 "Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; speak of peace," so
 2 All their sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each
 3 John the Bap - tist's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert
 4 Then make straight the crook - ed high - way; make the rough - er



says our God. "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, groan - ing
 dark mis - deed; all that well de - served his an - ger he no
 far and near, call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance for the
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, read - y



from their sor - rows' load. Speak to all Je - ru - sa - lem
 more will see or heed. They have suf - fered man - y a day;
 king - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!
 for his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



of the peace that waits for them; tell them that their
 now their griefs have passed a - way. God will change their
 Now pre - pare for God a way; let the val - leys
 now o'er earth is spread a - broad, and all flesh shall



sins I cov - er, that their war - fare now is o - ver."
 ach - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
 rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.
 see the to - ken that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Johann G. Olearius, 1611–1684

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER

... through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
(sung) *A-men.*

BLESSING

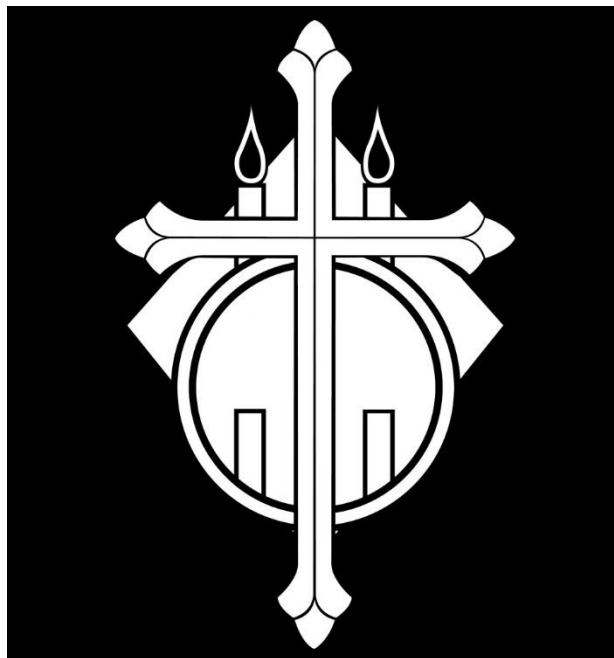
Numbers 6:24-26

Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
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.
(sung) *Amen. Amen. A-men.*

CLOSING HYMN

Arise, O Christian People | CW#310:3-4

See next page



CLOSING HYMN

Arise, O Christian People | CW#310:3-4



3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; turn not from me a -

high; be - neath his feet in ter - ror the
side, and help me to re - ceive you this

haugh - ty soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and
bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger

right, that heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion and makes true
low come now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing your

prep - a - ra - tion— it is the Lord's de - light.
prais - es glad - ly and forth your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–1662; (st. 3): tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–1874, alt.; (st. 4): tr. unknown, alt.

Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, Hamburg, 1598, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain