

Communion Practice: We believe that Christ is truly present in Holy Communion and, as we try to be faithful to Christ in the serving of this Sacrament, we ask that everyone be examined and instructed by the Pastor before receiving Holy Communion. All confirmed members of this parish, who have been regularly examined by the Pastor, are welcome to partake of the Holy Eucharist today. We also welcome the members who are in good standing of any of the parishes served by the Bishop, Pastors, and Deacons of The Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America (ELDoNA), and who have spoken to the Pastor prior to the service. Members of other Lutheran parishes or other denominations are kindly asked to refrain from communing today. The Pastor would be glad to make an appointment with anyone to discuss our teachings and/or our parish.

A Prayer upon Entering Church

Almighty, Ever-Living God, grant that I may gladly hear Thy Word and that all my worship may be acceptable unto Thee; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

A Prayer before Communion

Dear Savior, upon Thy gracious invitation I come to Thine Altar. Let me find favor in Thine eyes that I may approach Thy Table in true faith and receive the Sacrament to the salvation of my soul. Amen.

A Prayer after Communion

O Thou blessed Savior Jesus Christ, Who hast given Thyself to me in this holy Sacrament, keep me in Thy faith and favor; as Thou livest in me, let me also live in Thee. May Thy holy Body and Blood preserve me in the true faith unto everlasting life. Amen.

A Prayer at the Close of the Service

Grant, I beseech Thee, Almighty God, that the Word which I have heard this day may through Thy grace be so engrafted in my heart that I may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.



Populus Sion Sunday
December 7th, 2025

Sts. Peter & Paul Ev. Luth. Church, U.A.C.
A Parish Affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America

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Simpsonville, SC 29681

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“Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.” St. Luke 21:33

The Order of Divine Service

The Ringing of the Bell			
The Hymn	<i>“Come, Thou Almighty King”</i>	Δ	INSERT
<i>Stand</i>			
Silent Prayer	<i>(Prayers are located on back cover)</i>		ASBH p. 7
The Invocation			ASBH p. 7
The Confession of Sins	<i>(All may kneel)</i>		ASBH p. 8
Versicles			ASBH p. 8
Confession and Absolution			ASBH p. 8-9
<i>Stand (if kneeling)</i>			
The Introit	<i>(Congregation joins Pastor on Gloria Patri)</i>		ASBH p. 46
The Kyrie			ASBH p. 10
The Salutation			ASBH p. 13
The Collect for the Day			ASBH p. 46
The Collect for the Festival of St. Ambrose, Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor			ASBH p. 127
The Collect for the Season of Advent			ASBH p. 45
Collect Amen			ASBH p. 14
<i>Sit</i>			
The Lesson			Micah 4:1-7
The Epistle			Romans 15:4-13
The Gradual			ASBH p. 46
<i>Stand</i>			
The Sentence for the Season of Advent			ASBH p. 41
The Gospel	<i>(Gospel Responses ASBH p. 16)</i>		St. Luke 21:25-36
The Creed	<i>(All may bow at the words “And was made man.”)</i>		ASBH p. 17
<i>Sit</i>			
The Hymn	<i>“The Day Is Surely Drawing Near”</i>		ASBH 2
The Sermon	<i>Then Shall They See the Son of Man</i>		
<i>Stand</i>			
The Offertory			ASBH p. 18-19
	<i>(An Alms Basin is located next to the bulletins for any Offerings)</i>		
The General Prayer			ASBH p. 19-20
The Lord’s Prayer			ASBH p. 20
<i>Sit</i>			
The Hymn	<i>“Beware, O Sinner, for the Day”</i>	Δ	INSERT
The Lavabo	<i>(During Hymn)</i>		ASBH p. 21
<i>Stand</i>			
The Exhortation			ASBH p. 21
The Preface			ASBH p. 22
The Proper Preface			ASBH p. 23-27
The Sanctus and Benedictus			ASBH p. 27-28
The Lord’s Prayer			ASBH p. 29
The Verba Domini	<i>(All may bow when the Pastor genuflects)</i>		ASBH p. 30

The Pax Domini	<i>(All may bow and cross themselves)</i>	ASBH p. 31
The Agnus Dei	<i>(All may kneel)</i>	ASBH p. 31-32
<i>Sit</i>		
The Distribution	<i>(Prayers are located on back cover)</i>	
The Hymn	<i>“Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring”</i>	INSERT
<i>Stand</i>		
The Nunc Dimittis		ASBH p. 33-35
The Thanksgiving and Collect		ASBH p. 35-36
<i>Sit</i>		
The Hymn	<i>“Awake! Sons of the Kingdom”</i>	INSERT
<i>Stand</i>		
The Salutation		ASBH p. 36
The Benedicamus		ASBH p. 37
The Benediction		ASBH p. 37
The Triple Amen	<i>(First Setting)</i>	ASBH p. 37
<i>Sit</i>		
Recitation of the Catechism		
The Table of Duties (pages 29-34) & Questions 159-167 (Part II. The Creed. The Second Article. Of Redemption, pages 89-92).		
Announcements		
<i>ASBH = Augustana Service Book and Hymnal: 2022 Supplement.</i>		
<i>Δ—indicates a hymn ending in a Doxological stanza; please stand.</i>		

Christmas Season Schedule

December 24th	<i>The Vigil of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord</i>
	Private Confession 4:30 p.m.
	Candlelight Divine Service 5:00 p.m.
December 25th	<i>The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord</i>
	Divine Service 10:00 a.m.
December 26th	<i>The Festival of St. Stephen, Martyr</i>
December 27th	<i>The Festival of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>
December 28th	<i>The Sunday Within the Octave of Christmas/The Festival of the Holy Innocents</i>
	Divine Service 10:00 a.m.
	Bible Class 11:15 a.m.
	Divine Service in Augusta, GA 3:00 p.m.
January 1st	<i>The Festival of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus</i>
	Private confession 9:30 a.m.
	Divine Service 10:00 a.m.
January 4th	<i>The Second Sunday after Christmas</i>
	Divine Service 10:00 a.m.
	Bible Class 11:15 a.m.
January 6th	<i>The Festival of the Epiphany of our Lord</i>
	Private Confession 4:30 p.m.
	Divine Service 5:00 p.m.

December 14th—Gaudete Sunday

Epistle:

1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Gospel:

St. Matthew 11:2-10

In Our Prayers:

- For all those who are sick or infirmed, especially, *Dan, Katie, Kelly, Vince Bost, Brandon Dennie, Rachel Epperson, Vito Gerardi, Graham Hardaway, Michelle Harris, Peggy Holder, Judy Horn, Glen Madden, Paul Meadows, Barbara Miller, Mike Miller, Rev. Mark Mueller, Jack Newton, Becky Phillips, Betty Ramsey, Rev. Eric Stefanski, Chuck Webber, Gerald Weerts, and Tammy Wilson.*
- For the friends and family of *Brennan David*, who succumbed to his addiction this past Monday.
For our bishop, the *Rt. Rev. James D. Heiser.*
- For the parishes served by our diocese, and those in our international fellowship, especially, *St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church, Kenai/Nikiski, AK; Homer Ev. Lutheran Mission, Homer, AK; and their pastor, the Rev. Timothy H. Tolar; Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Harrison, AR; and Emmanuel Ev. Lutheran Mission, Conway, AR; and their pastor, the Rev. Eric J. Stefanski.*
- That the Lord might send *Faithful Laborers* into His harvest.
- For *St. Ignatius Evangelical Lutheran Seminary* and our seminarians, *Duncan Geldenhuys* and *Jonathan Teo Zin Han.*
- For the moral and spiritual support of those involved with our mission in Knoxville, TN, *Bob, Barbara, and Bobby Eisold, and Deacon and Sherrill Smitley.*
- For those struggling with addiction, especially *Thomas Allred* and *John Monahan.*
- For all those who serve in the military.
- For those celebrating birthdays this week.
- For those celebrating an anniversary this week.
- For those traveling this week.

Announcements

Daily Readings for the Week after Populus Sion Sunday

	Morning	Evening
Today	Isaiah 25-26; Luke 1:26-35	Isaiah 27-28; Romans 2:1-16
Monday:	Isaiah 29-30; Acts 17:16-24	Isaiah 31-32; 1 Chronicles 17:1-27
Tuesday:	Isaiah 33-34; 1 John 4:9-16	Isaiah 35-36; 2 Chronicles 7:11-22
Wednesday:	Isaiah 37-38; Col. 1:1-8	Isaiah 39-40; 11:1-10
Thursday:	Isaiah 41-42; Phil. 2:12-18	Isaiah 43-44; Jeremiah 23:2-8
Friday:	Isaiah 45-46; Phil. 3:12-16	Isaiah 47-48; Jeremiah 30:1-22
Saturday:	Isaiah 49-50; Col. 3:1-11	Isaiah 51-52; Jeremiah 33:14-26

Praying the Psalter Daily in Matins and Vespers:

	Morning	Evening
Today:	Psalms 28, 38	Psalms 91, 39-41
Monday:	Psalms 28, 42-44	Psalms 91, 45-48
Tuesday:	Psalms 28, 49	Psalms 91, 50-51
Wednesday:	Psalms 28, 52-54	Psalms 91, 55-57
Thursday:	Psalms 28, 58-59	Psalms 91, 60-63
Friday:	Psalms 28, 64-65	Psalms 91, 66-68
Saturday:	Psalms 28, 69	Psalms 98, 70-72

Book of Concord Readings for the Week:

Monday: The Large Catechism, Preface.1-10
Tuesday: The Large Catechism, Preface.11—Shorter Preface.6
Wednesday: The Large Catechism, Introduction.1-28
Thursday: The Large Catechism, I.1-15
Friday: The Large Catechism, I.16-29

Reciting the Catechism Daily:

Sunday: The Ten Commandments

Monday: The Apostles' Creed

Tuesday: The Lord's Prayer

Wednesday: Holy Baptism, The Office of the Keys and Confession

Thursday: The Sacrament of the Altar

Friday: How One Should Be Taught to Pray

Saturday: The Table of Duties

Hymns for the Week:

Morning: ASBH 2—"The Day Is Surely Drawing Near"

Evening: ASBH 139—"Beware, O Sinner, for the Day"

Calendar for the Week after Populus Sion Sunday

Today: Populus Sion Sunday/The Festival of St. Ambrose, Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor—Violet

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

10:00 a.m. Divine Service and Bible Class in Simpsonville, SC, Knoxville, TN (Deacon Smithey), and Fort Myers, FL (Pastor Warr)

Monday: Seminary Winter Quarter Begins

Tuesday: No Events Scheduled

Wednesday: Midweek Advent Vespers—Violet

5:00 p.m. Vespers

6:00 p.m. Private Confession

Thursday: No Events Scheduled

Friday: No Events Scheduled

Saturday: The Festival of St. Lucy, Martyr—Red

Next Sunday: Gaudete Sunday—Rose

10:00 a.m. Divine Service in Simpsonville, SC

11:15 a.m. Parish Meeting

St. Ignatius of Antioch Evangelical Lutheran Seminary

The Diocesan seminary is on break until they begin the Winter Quarter on December 8th. I will be teaching a class on the Psalms. Please keep the seminary and her students in your prayers.

Midweek Advent Services

Midweek Advent Vespers continues this Wednesday, December 10th at 5:00 p.m. Private confession will be offered after the Office.

Parish Meeting

Our next parish meeting is next Sunday, December 14th after the Divine Service. We will discuss next year's budget and the slate of officers for next year. Non-members are welcome to attend in an observatory role. Please make plans to attend.

The Lutheran Herald

The December issue of "The Lutheran Herald," the devotional booklet of the ELDoNA, is now available. It can be found on Facebook at: <http://tinyurl.com/LutheranHerald> and on the diocesan website: eldona.org. There are also printed copies in the back of the nave for your use and distribution.

Poinsettias for Christmas and Epiphany Seasons

Please consider donating a poinsettia plant to decorate our sanctuary for the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany. You may start bringing them on *Rorate coeli* Sunday, Sunday, December 21st.

An Excerpt from Luther's Writings

"If we pray aright, our condition must truly be such that, however terrible these signs may be, we will look up to them with joy and earnest desire, as Christ admonishes: 'When these things begin to come to pass, look up.' He does not say, 'Be filled with fear or drop your heads;' for there is coming that for which we have been so earnestly praying. If we really wish to be freed from sin and death and hell, we must look forward to this coming of the Lord with joy and pleasure. St. Paul also says, in 2 Tim. 4:8, 'Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day: and not only to me, but also to all them that have loved his appearing.' If He gives the crown to those who love His appearing, what will He give to those who hate and dread it? Without doubt, to enemies, eternal condemnation. Titus 2:13 says, 'Looking for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of the Great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.' And Luke 12:36, 'And be ye yourselves like unto men looking for their lord, when He shall return from the marriage feast.'" *From the Church Postil for Populus Sion, 1522.*

To Read in Preparation for this week's Festivals:

Today—Populus Sion Sunday/The Festival of St. Ambrose, Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor

Epistle:

Romans 15:4-13

Gospel:

St. Luke 21:25-36

December 13th—The Festival of St. Nicholas, Bishop and Confessor

Epistle:

2 Corinthians 10:17—11:2

Gospel:

St. Matthew 13:44-52

##. Come, Thou Almighty King

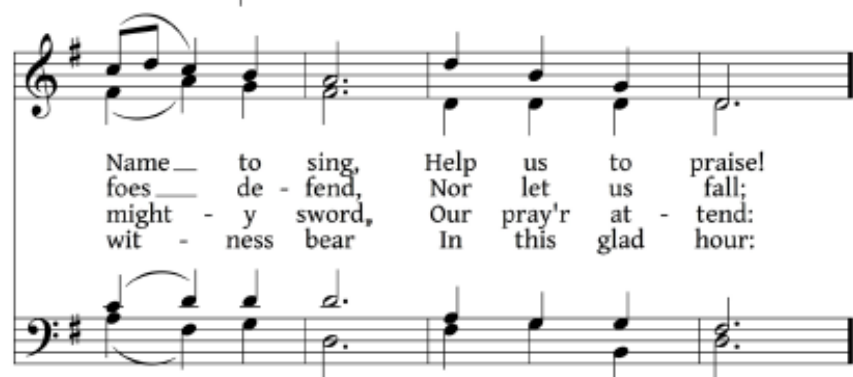
Author unknown, c. 1757

Italian Hymn

Felice de Giardini, 1769



1. Come, Thou Al - might - y King, Help us Thy
 2. Je - sus, our Lord, de - scend; From all our
 3. Come, Thou In - car - nate Word, Gird on Thy
 4. Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er, Thy sac - red



Name — to sing, Help us to praise!
 foes — de - fend, Nor let us fall;
 might - y sword, Our pray'r at - tend:
 wit - ness bear In this glad hour:



Fa - ther all glo - ri - ous,
 Let Thine al - might - y aid
 Come, and Thy peo - ple bless,
 Thou who al - might - y art,



O'er all vic - tor - i - ous, Come and reign
 Our sure de - fence be made; Our souls on
 And give Thy Word suc - cess; Spir - it of
 Now rule in ev - 'ry heart, And ne'er from

o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 Thee be stayed; Lord, hear our call!
 Ho - li - ness, On us de - scend.
 us de - part, Spir - it of Pow'r! A - men.

Δ 5. To the great One in Three
 The highest praises be,
 Hence, evermore!
 His sov'reign majesty
 May we in glory see,
 And to eternity
 Love and adore!

##. Beware, O Sinner, for the Day

Rev. Eric Stefanski, 2015

Was mein Gott will

French melody, 1529

Harm. by Johann S. Bach, †1750

1. Be - ware, O Sin - ner, for the Day Of
 2. A - wake, O Chris - tian, live in light As
 3. Keep watch, dear Chris - tian, for the Lord Shall
 4. Oh, be a - wake and watch - ing still In

grace is sure - ly end - ing, And on - ward to the
 one whose eyes are o - pen, And not as they who
 short - ly be re - turn - ing, And when He comes to
 word and life and doc - trine; That speech and life His

Judg - ment Day This world is tru - ly wend - ing. Will
 dwell in night—Who have no con - so - la - tion. For,
 claim His own Our works He will be learn - ing— For
 grace may fill, His Word give due at - ten - tion. For

you be caught up in the fray Of those who are pre-
 with His pre - cious blood, our Lord Has paid your full re-
 those who know the grace of God Are with such trea - sure
 on - ly thro' this Word of grace Can sin - ners find sal -

tend - ing? Or will you wake to joy - ful lays
 demp - tion; To all who trust this gra - cious Word
 faith - ful; And as His sheep will car - ry on
 va - tion: The blood of Christ tru - ly re - deemed

With all on Christ de - pend - ing?
 He free - ly grants re - mis - sion.
 As heirs of His dear Gos - pel.
 All men in ev - 'ry na - tion. A - men.

Δ 5. Oh, grant, dear Holy Ghost, that we
 May hold the Gospel purely;
 Convinced that Christ has set us free,
 May we forthtell it surely,
 That, with the Father and the Son,
 We give You purest glory—
 Our ev'ry word and deed that's done
 Proclaim salvation's story.

##. Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

Godfrey Thring, 1864

Sieh, hier bin ich
"Geistreiches Gesangbuch"
Darmstadt, 1698



1. Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing,
2. Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy
3. Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing,
4. Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row,



Came with peace from realms on high;
When our hearts are bowed with care;
Bring - ing news of sins for - giv'n;
Shares a - like our hopes and fears;



Je - sus came for man's re - demp - tion,
Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer
Je - sus comes in sounds of glad - ness,
Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die;
To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer;
Lead - ing souls, re - deemed to heav'n.
Glad our hearts, and dries our tears;



Al - le - lu - ia! — Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! — Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! — Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! — Al - le - lu - ia!



Came in — deep hu - mil - i - ty.
Comes to — save us from de - spair.
Now the — gate of death is riv'n.
Cheer - ing — e'en our fail - ing years. A - men.

5. Jesus comes on clouds triumphant
When the heav'ns shall pass away;
Jesus comes again in glory.
Let us, then, our homage pay,
Alleluia! ever singing
Till the dawn of endless day.

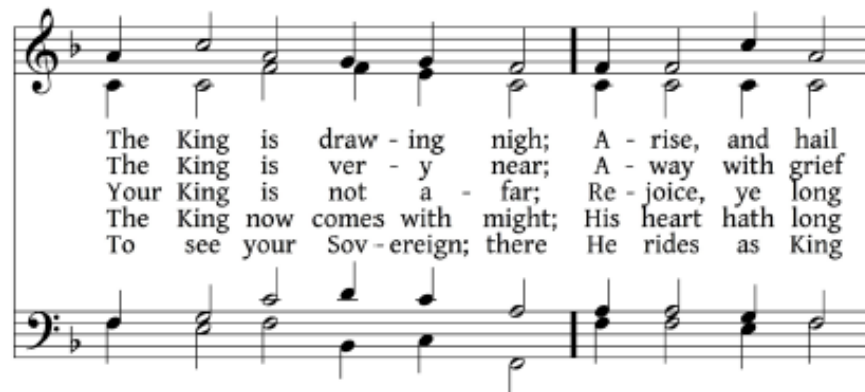
##. Awake! Sons of the Kingdom

Johann Rist, 1651.
Tr. Composite, 1880

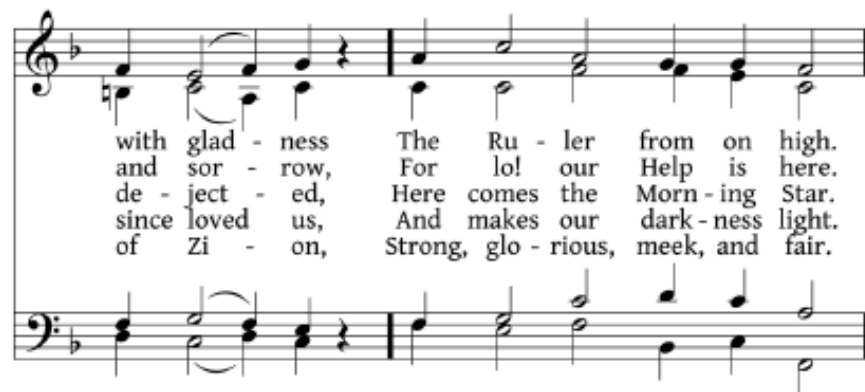
Aus meines Herzens Grunde
Eisleben G. B., 1598



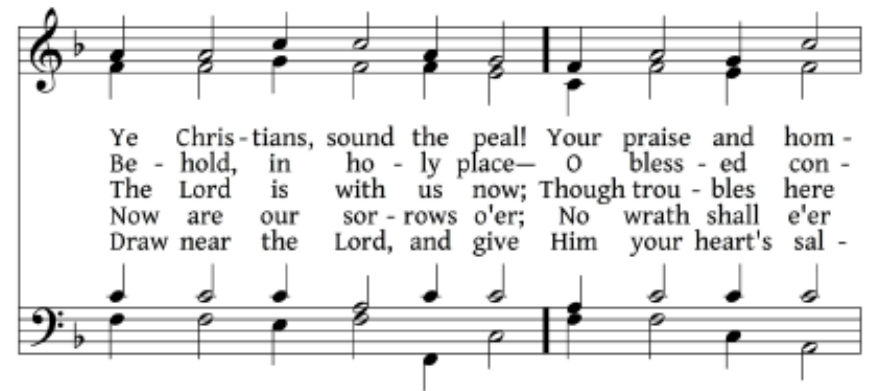
1. A - wake! sons of the king - dom,
2. Look up! ye droop - ing mourn - ers,
3. A - rise! ye much af - flict - ed,
4. Up, up! ye faint and fear - ful,
5. Haste then, with ea - ger foot - steps,



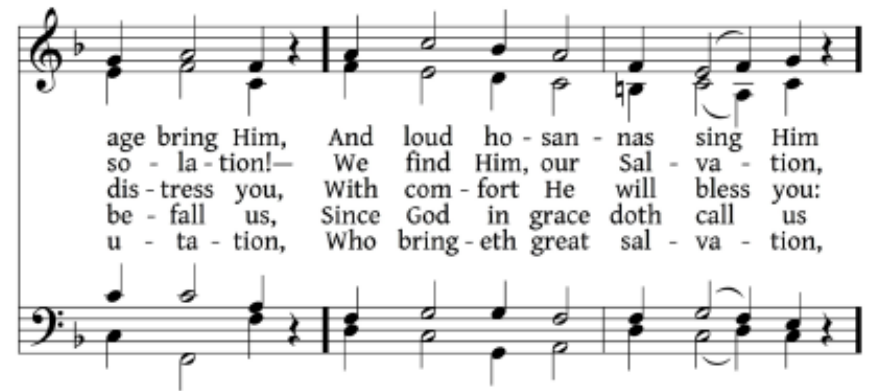
The King is draw - ing nigh; A - rise, and hail
The King is ver - y near; A - way with grief
Your King is not a - far; Re - joice, ye long
The King now comes with might; His heart hath long
To see your Sov - ereign; there He rides as King



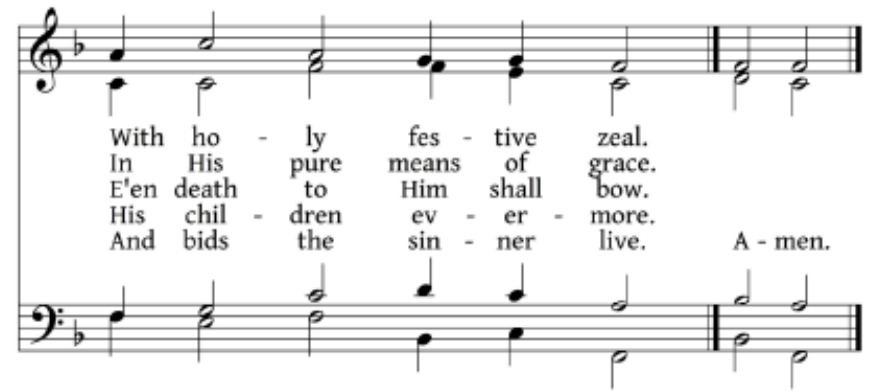
with glad - ness The Ru - ler from on high.
and sor - row, For lo! our Help is here.
de - ject - ed, Here comes the Morn - ing Star.
since loved us, And makes our dark - ness light.
of Zi - on, Strong, glo - rious, meek, and fair.



Ye Chris - tians, sound the peal! Your praise and hom -
Be - hold, in ho - ly place— O bless - ed con -
The Lord is with us now; Though trou - bles here
Now are our sor - rows o'er; No wrath shall e'er
Draw near the Lord, and give Him your heart's sal -



age bring Him, And loud ho - san - nas sing Him
so - la - tion!— We find Him, our Sal - va - tion,
dis - tress you, With com - fort He will bless you:
be - fall us, Since God in grace doth call us
u - ta - tion, Who bring - eth great sal - va - tion,



With ho - ly fes - tive zeal.
In His pure means of grace.
E'en death to Him shall bow.
His chil - dren ev - er - more.
And bids the sin - ner live. A - men.

6. Our Sovereign still remembers
His loved ones here below
With gifts of royal treasures,
Yea, doth Himself bestow
Through His blest Word and grace;
O King, arrayed in splendor,
To Thee all praise we render,
Here, and there face to face.

7. Lord, how Thou dost enrich us!
Thyself made poor and weak;
O Love beyond expression,
That can thus sinners seek!
What can we do for Thee?
We will love's tribute bring Thee,
And glad hosannas sing Thee,
And ever grateful be.