

**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.

Scripture quotations are from the Revised Version of the Holy Bible (1895) with Apocrypha. This work is in the Public Domain.



Rorate coeli Sunday  
December 21<sup>st</sup>, 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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*“I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness,  
“Make straight the way of the Lord,””  
St. John 1:23*

## The Order of Divine Service

<b>The Ringing of the Bell</b>		
<b>The Hymn</b>	<i>“Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People”</i>	INSERT
<i>Stand</i>		
<b>Silent Prayer</b>	<i>(Prayers are located on back cover)</i>	ASBH p. 7
<b>The Invocation</b>		ASBH p. 7
<b>The Confession of Sins</b>	<i>(All may kneel)</i>	ASBH p. 8
<b>Versicles</b>		ASBH p. 8
<b>Confession and Absolution</b>		ASBH p. 8-9
<i>Stand (if kneeling)</i>		
<b>The Introit</b>	<i>(Congregation joins Pastor on Gloria Patri)</i>	ASBH p. 51
<b>The Kyrie</b>		ASBH p. 10
<b>The Salutation</b>		ASBH p. 13
<b>The Collect for the Day</b>		ASBH p. 51
<b>The Collect for the Festival of St. Thomas, Apostle</b>		ASBH p. 129
<b>The Collect for the Season of Advent</b>		ASBH p. 45
<b>Collect Amen</b>		ASBH p. 14
<i>Sit</i>		
<b>The Lesson</b>		Isaiah 40:1-8
<b>The Epistle</b>		Philippians 4:4-7
<b>The Gradual</b>		ASBH p. 47
<i>Stand</i>		
<b>The Sentence for the Season of Advent</b>		ASBH p. 41
<b>The Gospel</b>	<i>(Gospel Responses ASBH p. 16)</i>	St. John 1:19-28
<b>The Creed</b>	<i>(All may bow at the words “And was made man.”)</i>	ASBH p. 17
<i>Sit</i>		
<b>The Hymn</b>	<i>“To Jordan Came Our Lord, the Christ”</i>	ASBH 4
<b>The Sermon</b>	<i>He That Cometh After Me</i>	
<i>Stand</i>		
<b>The Offertory</b>		ASBH p. 18-19
	<i>(An Alms Basin is located next to the bulletins for any Offerings)</i>	
<b>The General Prayer</b>		ASBH p. 19-20
<b>The Lord’s Prayer</b>		ASBH p. 20
<i>Sit</i>		
<b>The Hymn</b>	<i>“O Lord, Wouldst Thou the Heavens Rend”</i>	Δ INSERT
<b>The Lavabo</b>	<i>(During Hymn)</i>	ASBH p. 21
<i>Stand</i>		
<b>The Exhortation</b>		ASBH p. 21
<b>The Preface</b>		ASBH p. 22
<b>The Proper Preface</b>		ASBH p. 23-27
<b>The Sanctus and Benedictus</b>		ASBH p. 27-28
<b>The Lord’s Prayer</b>		ASBH p. 29
<b>The Verba Domini</b>	<i>(All may bow when the Pastor genuflects)</i>	ASBH p. 30
<b>The Pax Domini</b>	<i>(All may bow and cross themselves)</i>	ASBH p. 31

<b>The Agnus Dei</b>	<i>(All may kneel)</i>	ASBH p. 31-32
<i>Sit</i>		
<b>The Distribution</b>	<i>(Prayers are located on back cover)</i>	
<b>The Hymn</b>	<i>“Say, with What Salutations?”</i>	INSERT
<i>Stand</i>		
<b>The Nunc Dimittis</b>		ASBH p. 33-35
<b>The Thanksgiving and Collect</b>		ASBH p. 35-36
<i>Sit</i>		
<b>The Hymn</b>	<i>“The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us”</i>	ASBH 65
<i>Stand</i>		
<b>The Salutation</b>		ASBH p. 36
<b>The Benedicamus</b>		ASBH p. 37
<b>The Benediction</b>		ASBH p. 37
<b>The Triple Amen</b>	<i>(First Setting)</i>	ASBH p. 37
<i>Sit</i>		
<b>Recitation of the Catechism</b>		
The Lord’s Prayer (pages 15-19) & Questions 194-200 (Part II. The Creed. The Third Article. Of the Forgiveness of Sins, page 102-104).		
<b>Announcements</b>		
<i>ASBH = Augustana Service Book and Hymnal: 2022 Supplement.</i>		
<i>Δ—indicates a hymn ending in a Doxological stanza; please stand.</i>		

## Christmas and Epiphany Season Schedule

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

**December 27<sup>th</sup>—The Festival of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist**

**Epistle:** 1 John 1:1-10

**Gospel:** St. John 21:19-24

**December 28<sup>th</sup>—The Sunday within the Octave of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord/The Festival of the Holy Innocents**

**Lesson:** Isaiah 11:1-4

**Epistle:** Galatians 4:1-7

**Gospel:** St. Luke 2:33-40

**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 our bishop, the Rt. Rev. James D. Heiser.
- For the parishes served by our diocese, and those in our international fellowship, especially, *St. Patrick Ev. Lutheran Church, Chipley, FL*; and her pastor, the Rev. Brandon Warr.
- 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, especially *John and Venessa Landt*.
- For those traveling this week.

**Announcements**

**Daily Readings for the Week after Rorate coeli Sunday**

	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Evening</b>
<b>Today</b>	Matt. 15-16; Luke 1:67-80	St. Matthew 17-18; Hebrews 12:15-29
<b>Monday:</b>	Matt. 19-20; Matt. 1:18-25	St. Matthew 21-22; Isaiah 40:1-11
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Matt. 23-24; Luke 1:39-45	St. Matthew 25; Malachi 3:1-7
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Matt. 26-27; Luke 1:46-56	St. Matthew 28; Malachi 4:1-6
<b>Thursday:</b>	Romans 1-3; Luke 1:57-66	Romans 4-6; Isaiah 28:14-19
<b>Friday:</b>	Romans 7-9; Luke 1:67-80	Romans 10-12; Isaiah 7:1-17
<b>Saturday:</b>	Romans 13-14; John 1:15-18	Romans 15-16; Micah 4:1-8

**Praying the Psalter Daily in Matins and Vespers:**

	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Evening</b>
<b>Today:</b>	Psalms 126, 105	Psalms 145, 106
<b>Monday:</b>	Psalms 126, 107	Psalms 145, 108-111
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Psalms 126, 112-115	Psalms 145, 116-118
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Psalms 24, 119:1-40	Ps. 89, 110, 132, 119:41-88
<b>Thursday:</b>	Ps. 19, 45, 85, 119:89-128	Ps. 89, 110, 132, 119:129-176
<b>Friday:</b>	Psalms 19, 45, 85, 120-125	Ps. 89, 110, 132, 126-132
<b>Saturday:</b>	Psalms 19, 45, 85, 133-135	Psalms 111, 136-139

**Book of Concord Readings for the Week:**

**Monday:** The Large Catechism, I.103-116

**Tuesday:** The Large Catechism, I.117-133

**Wednesday:** The Large Catechism, I.134-148

**Thursday:** The Large Catechism, I.149-165

**Friday:** The Large Catechism, I.166-182

**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 4—"To Jordan Came Our Lord, the Christ"

**Evening:** INSERT—"O Lord, Wouldst Thou the Heavens Rend"

### Calendar for the Week after Rorate coeli Sunday

**Today: Rorate coeli Sunday—Violet**

*Winter Begins*

*O Oriens*

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

12:15 p.m. Decorate for Christmas

**Monday: *O Rex Gentium***

**Tuesday: The Festival of St. Thorlak, Bishop and Confessor—White**

*O Emmanuel*

**Wednesday: The Vigil of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord—White**

*Christmas Eve*

4:30 p.m. Private Confession

5:00 p.m. Candlelight Divine Service

**Thursday: The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord**

*Christmas Day*

10:00 a.m. Divine Service

**Friday: The Festival of St. Stephen, Martyr—Red**

**Saturday: The Festival of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist—White**

John and Venessa Landt's Anniversary

**Next Sunday: The Sunday within the Octave of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord/The Festival of the Holy Innocents—White**

10:00 a.m. Divine Service and Bible Class

3:00 p.m. Divine Service in Augusta, GA

### St. Ignatius of Antioch Evangelical Lutheran Seminary

The Diocesan seminary has begun their Winter Break. They will resume classes on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. Please keep the seminary and her students in your prayers.

### 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](http://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. We will decorate the sanctuary after Bible class today.

### An Excerpt from Luther's Writings

"John likewise directs the people away from himself to Christ. And although this is a higher and greater office than that of a prophet, yet it is not so on account of his merit, but on account of the presence of his Master. And in praising John for being more than a prophet, not his worthiness but that of his Master, who is present, is extolled. For it is customary for a servant to receive greater honor and reverence in the absence of his master than in His presence." *From the Church Postil for Rorate coeli.*

### To Read in Preparation for this week's Festivals:

**Today—Rorate coeli Sunday/The Festival of St. Thomas, Apostle**

**Lesson:** Isaiah 40:1-8

**Epistle:** Philippians 4:4-7

**Gospel:** St. John 1:19-28

**December 23<sup>rd</sup>—The Festival of St. Thorlak, Bishop and Confessor**

**Epistle:** Isaiah 2:2-5

**Gospel:** St. Luke 1:26-38

**December 24<sup>th</sup>—The Vigil of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord**

**Epistle:** Isaiah 11:1-5

**Gospel:** St. Luke 1:39-47

**December 25<sup>th</sup>—The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord**

**Lesson:** Isaiah 7:10-14

**Epistle:** Titus 2:11-14

**Gospel:** St. Luke 2:1-14

**December 26<sup>th</sup>—The Festival of St. Stephen, Martyr**

**Epistle:** Acts 6:8—7:60

**Gospel:** St. Matthew 23:34-39

# 151. Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

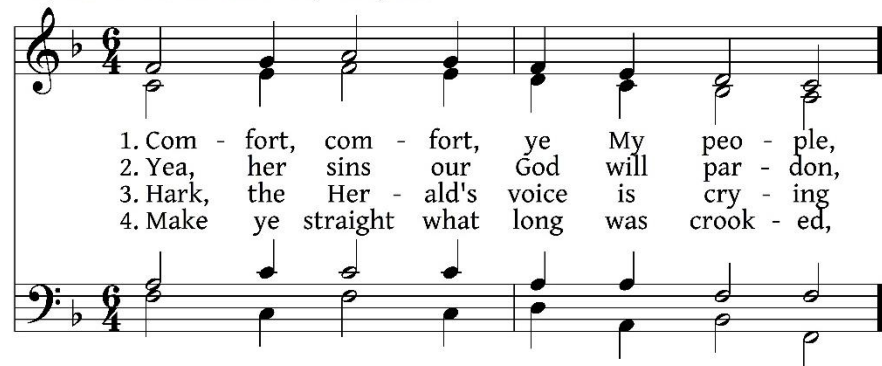
Tröstet, tröstet meine Lieben

Freu dich sehr

Johann Olearius, 1671

"Genevan Psalter," 1551


Tr., Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.



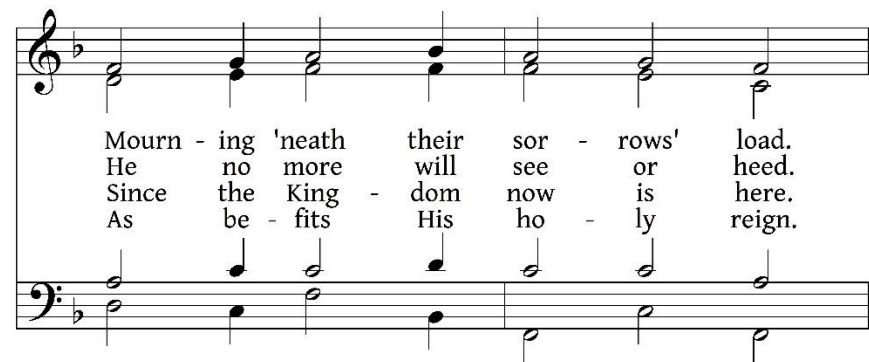
1. Com - fort, com - fort, ye My peo - ple,  
 2. Yea, her sins our God will par - don,  
 3. Hark, the Her - ald's voice is cry - ing  
 4. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed,



Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
 Blot - ting out each dark our mis - deed;  
 In the des - ert far and near,  
 Make the rough - er plac - es plain;



Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness,  
 All that well de - served His an - ger  
 Bid - ding all men to re - pent - ance  
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



Mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load.  
 He no more will see or heed.  
 Since the King - dom now is here.  
 As be - fits His ho - ly reign.



Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that  
 She hath suf - fered man - y a day, Now her griefs have  
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for  
 For the glo - ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is



waits for them; Tell her that her sins I cov - er  
 passed a - way; God will change her pin - ing sad - ness  
 God a way; Let the val - leys rise to meet Him  
 shed a - broad, And all flesh shall see the to - ken

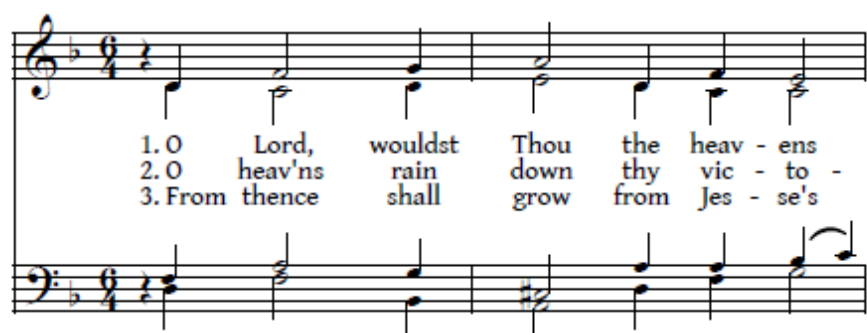


And her war - fare now is o - ver.  
 In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
 And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
 That His Word is nev - er bro - ken. A - men.

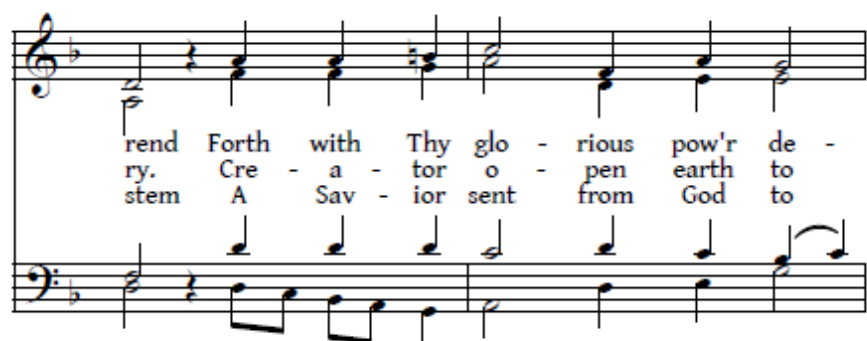
# ##. O Lord, Wouldst Thou the Heavens Rend

Tanya Dulas, 2025

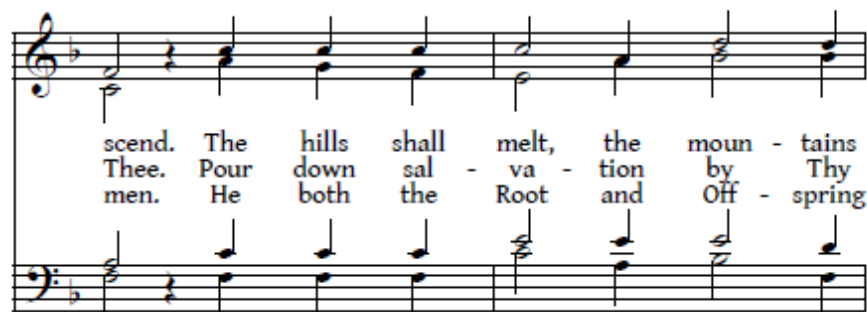
Köln, 1623  
arr. by Tanya Dulas, 2025



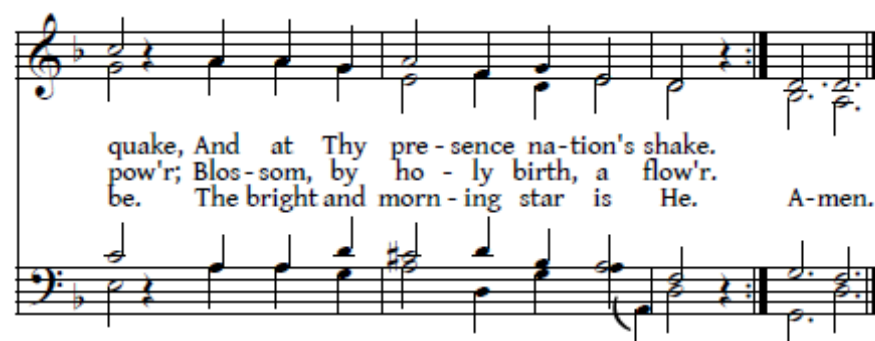
1. O Lord, wouldst Thou the heav - ens  
2. O heav'ns rain down thy vic - to -  
3. From thence shall grow from Jes - se's



rend Forth with Thy glo - rious pow'r de -  
ry. Cre - a - tor o - pen earth to  
stem A Sav - ior sent from God to



scend. The hills shall melt, the moun - tains  
Thee. Pour down sal - va - tion by Thy  
men. He both the Root and Off - spring



quake, And at Thy pre - sence na - tion's shake.  
pow'r; Blos - som, by ho - ly birth, a flow'r.  
be. The bright and morn - ing star is He. A - men.

4. Lord, how long shall the enemy  
Be set exalted over me?  
Break thro' the gloom before our eyes  
Until Thy morning dawn arise.

5. Speak comfort to Jerusalem  
That suff'ring now for her doth end.  
Freedom from her captivity.  
God pardoned her iniquity.

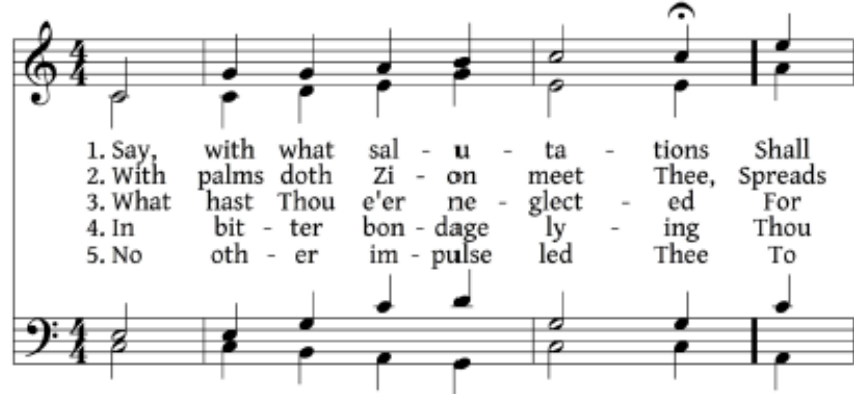
Δ6. Now thank we Father and the Son  
And Holy Ghost, the Three in One.  
Created and redeemed are we,  
Enlightened through eternity.



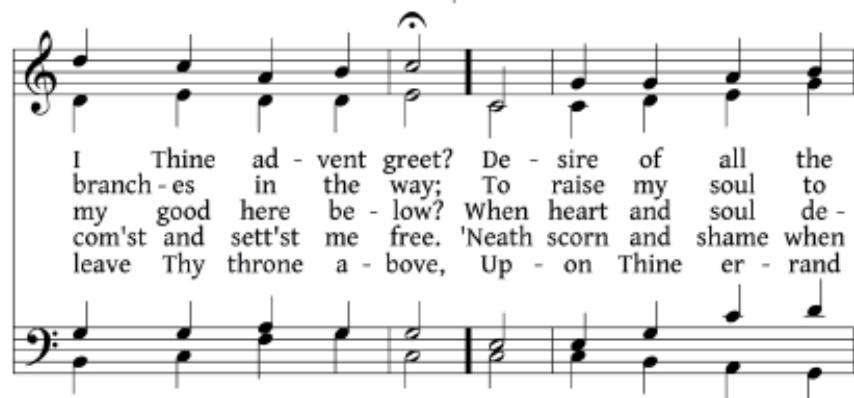
# ## Say, with What Salutations?

Paul Gerhardt, 1653  
Tr., John Kelly, ca. 1867

Valet will ich dir geben  
Melchior Teschner, 1613



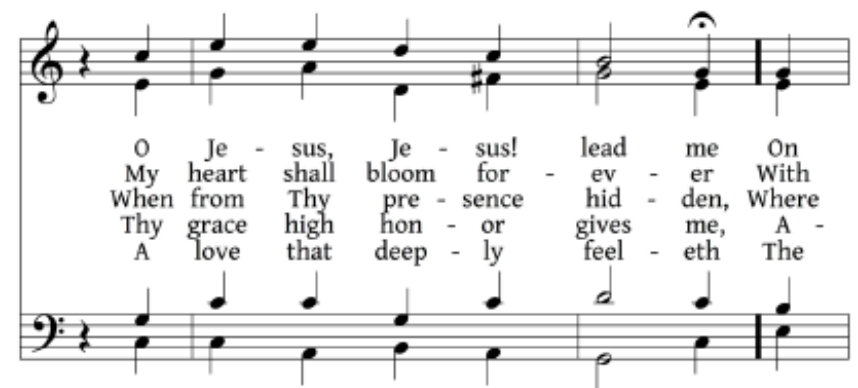
1. Say, with what sal - u - ta - tions Shall  
2. With palms doth Zi - on meet Thee, Spreads  
3. What hast Thou e'er ne - glect - ed For  
4. In bit - ter bon - dage ly - ing Thou  
5. No oth - er im - pulse led Thee To



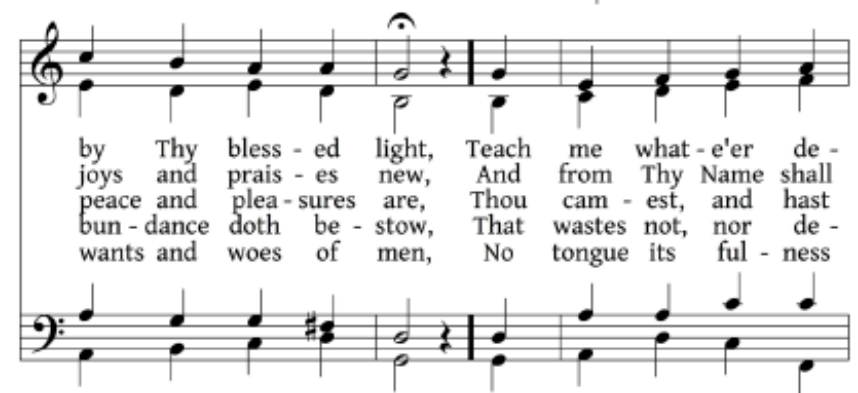
I Thine ad - vent greet? De - sire of all the  
branch - es in the way; To raise my soul to  
my good here be - low? When heart and soul de -  
com'st and sett'st me free. 'Neath scorn and shame when  
leave Thy throne a - bove, Up - on Thine er - rand



na - tions, My Joy and Re - fuge meet!  
greet Thee Glad psalms I'll sing to - day.  
ject - ed, Were sunk in deep - est woe,  
sigh - ing, Thou com'st and rais - est me.  
sped Thee, But world - em - bra - cing love!



O Je - sus, Je - sus! lead me On  
My heart shall bloom for - ev - er With  
When from Thy pre - sence hid - den, Where  
Thy grace high hon - or gives me, A -  
A love that deep - ly feel - eth The



by Thy bless - ed light, Teach me what - e'er de -  
joys and prais - es new, And from Thy Name shall  
peace and plea - sures are, Thou cam - est, and hast  
bun - dance doth be - stow, That wastes not, nor de -  
wants and woes of men, No tongue its ful - ness



lights Thee To un - der - stand a - right.  
nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.  
bid - den Me joy a - gain, my Star!  
cieves me, As earth - ly rich - es do.  
tell - eth, It pass - eth hu - man ken. A - men.

6. Sin's debt and mighty burden,  
Let not thy heart affright;  
The Lord will freely pardon,  
His grace will cover quite.  
He comes! He comes! salvation  
Proclaiming everywhere,  
Secures His chosen nation  
Their heritage so fair.

7. Thy foes, why should they move thee;  
Their wiles and rage are vain,  
Thy Savior, who doth love thee,  
Will scatter them again.  
O come, Thou Son, and lead us  
To everlasting light;  
Up to Thy mansions guide us  
Of glory and delight.