

AS WE GATHER

Songs Of The Season, part 4: "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen."

For Advent 2021 we are using beloved Advent and Christmas songs to explore the theme of God preparing us. The Bible says "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8b). "to save us all from Satan's power."

LSB 346 WHEN ALL THE WORLD WAS CURSED sts. 1–2

1 When all the world was cursed By Moses' condemnation,
Saint John the Baptist came With words of consolation.
With true forerunner's zeal The greater One he named,
And Him, as yet unknown, As Savior he proclaimed.

2 Before he yet was born, He leaped in joyful meeting,
Confessing Him as Lord Whose mother he was greeting.
By Jordan's rolling stream, A new Elijah bold,
He testified of Him Of whom the prophets told:

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005119

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES Zephaniah 3:14a, 15b; 16b–17, 20

P Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart.

C The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

P “Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.

C The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save;

P He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love;

C He will exult over you with loud singing.

P I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the LORD.

C We worship You, O Lord!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Three Advent candles are lit.

P Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God’s new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

A time of silence is observed.

P We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have wandered from You. Our wonderings have at times turned into doubts that drew us away from You.

C **Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

P Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

C **according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

LSB 346 WHEN ALL THE WORLD WAS CURSED sts. 3–4

- 3 Behold the Lamb of God That bears the world's transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes The devil's dread oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes away our sin,
Who for our peace and joy Will full atonement win.
- 4 O grant, dear Lord of love, That we receive, rejoicing,
The word proclaimed by John, Our true repentance voicing,
That gladly we may walk Upon our Savior's way
Until we live with Him In His eternal day.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005119

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ,

C **we implore You to hear our prayers**

P and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your
gracious visitation;

C **for You live and reign with the Father and the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

+ GOD'S WORD FOR US +

¹⁴ Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel!

Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm.

¹⁶ On that day they will say to Jerusalem, “Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp.

¹⁷ The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.”

¹⁸ “I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you.

¹⁹ At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles.

I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame.

²⁰ At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes,” says the Lord.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Philippians 4:4–7 NIV

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1–5, 14–18 NIV

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

^{1:1} In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN sts. 1, Ref, 3–4, 7

1 God rest ye merry, gentlemen. Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r When we were gone
astray. **REFRAIN**

Ref: O tidings of comfort and joy

Comfort and joy

O tidings of comfort and joy

3 From God our heavenly Father A blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds Brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by
name. **REFRAIN**

Ref: O tidings of comfort and joy

Comfort and joy

O tidings of comfort and joy

4 Fear not then said the angel Let nothing you affright
This day is born a Savior Of a pure virgin bright
To free all those who trust in Him From Satan's pow'r and
might. **REFRAIN**

7 Now to the Lord sing praises All you within this place
And with true love and brotherhood Each other now
embrace

This holy tide of Christmas Shall bless our human race.

REFRAIN

Text: Public domain

MESSAGE: "GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN" (Songs For The Season) part 4

CREED

**☐ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,**

**begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from
heaven**

**and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according to the
Scriptures**

**and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

OUR PRAYERS TO GOD OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

+ SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER +

INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNION

LORD'S PRAYER

G 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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

+ HYMN OF COMMUNING +

LSB 621 LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE sts. 1–2, 4

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence And with fear and trembling stand;

Ponder nothing earthly-minded, For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending Comes our homage to demand.

2 King of kings yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.

4 At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence As with ceaseless voice they cry:
“Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

Text: Public domain

BENEDICTION Philippians 4:5–7; Numbers 6:24–26

P The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

G Amen.

LSB 333 ONCE HE CAME IN BLESSING

1 Once He came in blessing, All our sins redressing;
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.

2 Now He gently leads us; With Himself He feeds us
Precious food from heaven, Pledge of peace here given,
Manna that will nourish Souls that they may flourish.

3 Soon will come that hour When with mighty power
Christ will come in splendor And will judgment render,
With the faithful sharing Joy beyond comparing.

4 Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing, That we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

Text (sts. 2–3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005119

Text (sts. 1, 4): Public domain

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2021 Concordia Publishing House.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2021 Concordia Publishing House.