

December 14, 2025

*Third Sunday in Advent-  
Gaudete*



Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.  
*Matthew 11:10*

Christ Our Savior Ev Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Saint Augustine, Florida

Rev. Mark B. Stirdivant

<https://coselc.org/>

**Stewardship Thought: Matthew 11:10** – “**This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’**” John prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance. Then, when Jesus’ ministry was complete and He was raised from the dead, He sent out His disciples to preach “repentance for the forgiveness of sins” (Luke 24:47). We never outgrow the need for repentance — for examining our lives, turning away from our sins, and turning toward Jesus in faith to receive his forgiveness and strength for a renewed life of godliness. • [lcms.org/stewardship](http://lcms.org/stewardship)

### **Closed Communion:**

We rejoice in this celebration of the LORD'S Supper as the Lord Jesus indeed comes to us in a very intimate manner, giving to us His true Body and Blood in with and under the bread and wine in this sacred meal. St. Paul writes, *"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself."* (1 Corinthians 11:28-29) Since we take the Bible's warnings seriously and we desire to extend loving care to every individual that comes to the Lord's Supper, we ask those who are not yet fully instructed in the faith and/or not currently under the regular pastoral care of this congregation to speak to the Pastor before attending the Lord's Supper. If you belong to a church of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, believing and confessing as we do, please speak to the Pastor so he can give your home pastor an accounting of your soul's care. We ask that ALL guests visiting for the first time, kindly speak to the Pastor before the service. Please respect our position of love for you and for all, COSELIC Pastor and Elders.

If you need gluten-free bread for Communion, please notify the pastor or an elder before the start of the service. It would be our pleasure to serve you!

Divine Service Setting One

**Ringings of the bell  
Announcements**

**354 Arise, O Christian People**



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -  
2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the  
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 -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your  
best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this  
high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty  
side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The  
heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The  
soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That  
Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from  
low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -  
heads God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -  
now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.  
bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.  
ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.  
glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.

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

Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

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

**C** Amen.

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- 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.**

# Service of the Word

## Introit

*Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*



- P** Rejoice in the Lord | always;\*  
again I will say, | Rejoice.
- C** I will hope con- | tinually\*  
and will praise you yet | more and more.
- P** My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of  
salvation | all the day,\*  
for their number is past my | knowledge.
- C** With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD | I will come;\*  
I will remind them of your righteousness, | yours alone.
- P** O God, from my youth you have | taught me,\*  
and I still proclaim your | wondrous deeds.
- C** So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not for- |  
sake me,\*  
until I proclaim your might to another generation, your  
power to all | those to come.  
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
- P** Rejoice in the Lord | always;\*  
again I will say, | Rejoice.

## Kyrie

*LSB 152*

- P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



- C** Lord, have mer - cy.
- P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us  
pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**C** A - men.

**Gloria in Excelsis (omitted during Advent)**

*LSB 154*

Hymn #357

sts. 1, ref. 4-5



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from  
 5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y  
 wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
 leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.  
 Tune: French, 15th cent.  
 Text and tune: Public domain

Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

**Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 35:1–10*

- <sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;  
<sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and singing.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.
- <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
<sup>4</sup>Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
“Be strong; fear not!  
Behold, your God  
will come with vengeance,  
with the recompense of God.  
He will come and save you.”
- <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.  
For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
- <sup>8</sup>And a highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
the unclean shall not pass over it.  
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
- <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.
- <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return



## Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2-15

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

**C** (sung) **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.”

<sup>11</sup>Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, <sup>14</sup>and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. <sup>15</sup>He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** (sung) Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

### 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is  
 2 Star - tled at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the  
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with  
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the  
 Δ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the  
 near," we hear it say, "Cast a - way the  
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all  
 par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with  
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us  
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -  
 works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"  
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;  
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.  
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.  
 Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89  
 Text and tune: Public domain

**Sermon**

*Rev'd Mark B. Stirdivant*

*Stand*

- P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.  
**C** Amen.

## Nicene 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.

# Prayer of the Church

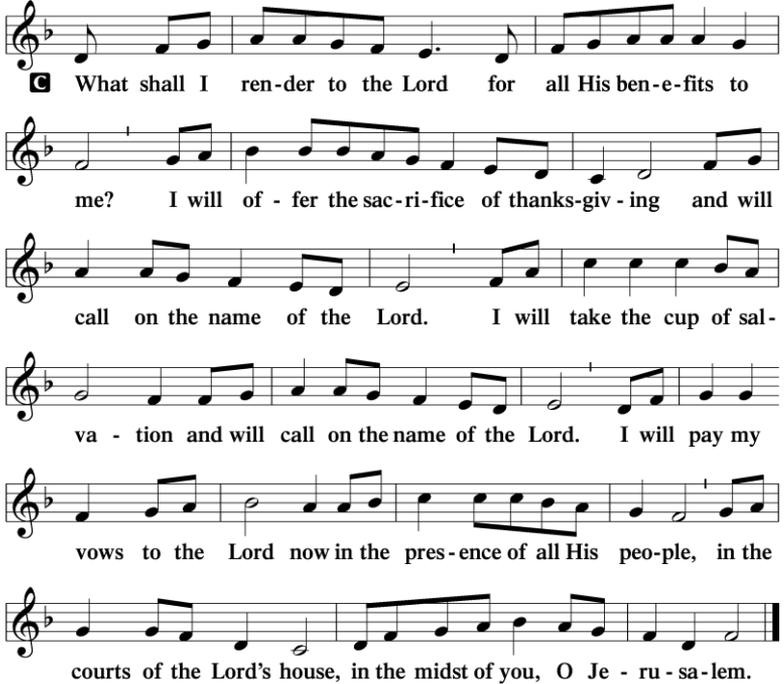
*Sit*

## Offering

*Stand*

### Offertory

*LSB 159*

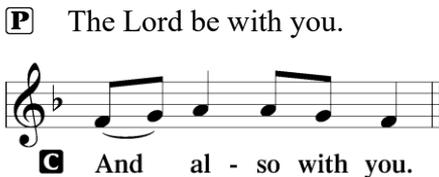


**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

*LSB 160*



**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And al - so with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary... evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

*LSB 161*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en 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 who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

*LSB 161*

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us

with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Lord's Prayer

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** **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.**

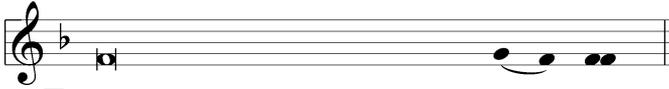
### The Words of Our Lord

**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."

## Pax Domini

LSB 163



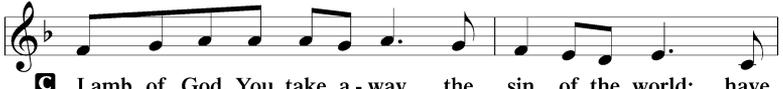
**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**C** A - men.

## Agnus Dei

LSB 163



**C** Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Sit*

### Distribution

*Ushers will direct rows of communicants to the rail for Holy Communion. When the pastor welcomes your table, you may either kneel or remain standing. If you are to receive a baptismal blessing from the Pastor today, please indicate this by crossing your arms in front of your chest prior to his coming to you with the Body of Christ. If you need gluten-free bread, please notify the pastor or an elder. The Blood of Christ is available in individual glasses, non-alcoholic wine is in the middle of the tray. If you prefer to drink from the chalice, then cross your arms in front of your chest before the pastor comes to you with the Blood of Christ. Each table will be dismissed with the words, "Depart in peace," and you may return to your row by one of the side aisles.*

### 338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;  
 2 Born Thy peo-ple to de - liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
 Born to reign in us for-ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
 By Thine own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.  
 By Thine all-suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.  
 Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, New Haven  
 Text and tune: Public domain

### 514 The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us



1 The Bride-groom soon will call us, "Come to the wed-ding feast."  
 2 There shall we see in glo - ry Our dear Re-deem-er's face;  
 3 There God shall from all e - vil For - ev - er make us free,  
 4 In that fair home shall nev - er Be si - lent mu - sic's voice;



May slum-ber not be - fall us Nor watch - ful-ness de - crease.  
 The long - a - wait - ed sto - ry Of heav'n - ly joy takes place:  
 From sin and from the dev - il, From all ad - ver - si - ty,  
 With hearts and lips for - ev - er We shall in God re - joice,



May all our lamps be burn - ing With oil e - nough and more  
 The pa - tri - archs shall meet us, The proph - ets' ho - ly band;  
 From sick-ness, pain, and sad - ness, From trou - bles, cares, and fears,  
 While an - gel hosts are rais - ing With saints from great to least



That we, with Him re - turn - ing, May find an o - pen door!  
 A - pos - tles, mar - tyrs greet us In that ce - les - tial land.  
 And grant us heav'n - ly glad - ness And wipe a - way our tears.  
 A might - y hymn for prais - ing The Giv - er of the feast.

Text: Johann Walter, 1496-1570; (st. 1): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001; (sts. 2-4): tr. Matthias Loy, 1828-1915, alt.  
 Tune: Musae Sioniae, 1609, vol. 7, Wolfenbüttel, ed. Michael Praetorius  
 Text (st. 1): © 1982 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017302  
 Text (sts. 2-4) and tune: Public domain

## 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -  
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet  
 3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered

at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,  
 gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons  
 in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious

Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the  
 With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool  
 That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and

Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing  
 wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this  
 glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us

storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.  
 Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
 praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955

Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia

Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110017302

Tune: Public domain

*The distribution ended, the following is said:*

*Stand*

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen  
 and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting.  
 Depart † in peace.

**C** Amen.

**Nunc Dimittis**

*LSB 165*

**C** Lord, now You let Your ser - vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -  
 filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have pre -

pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -  
 veal You to the na - tions and the glo - ry of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el.  
 Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;  
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

**Post-Communion Collect**

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** A - men.

**Benedicamus**

*LSB 212*

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Benediction**

*LSB 166*

**P** 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.



**A** - men.

### 349 Hark the Glad Sound



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, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51  
 Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820  
 Text and tune: Public domain

### Acknowledgments

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