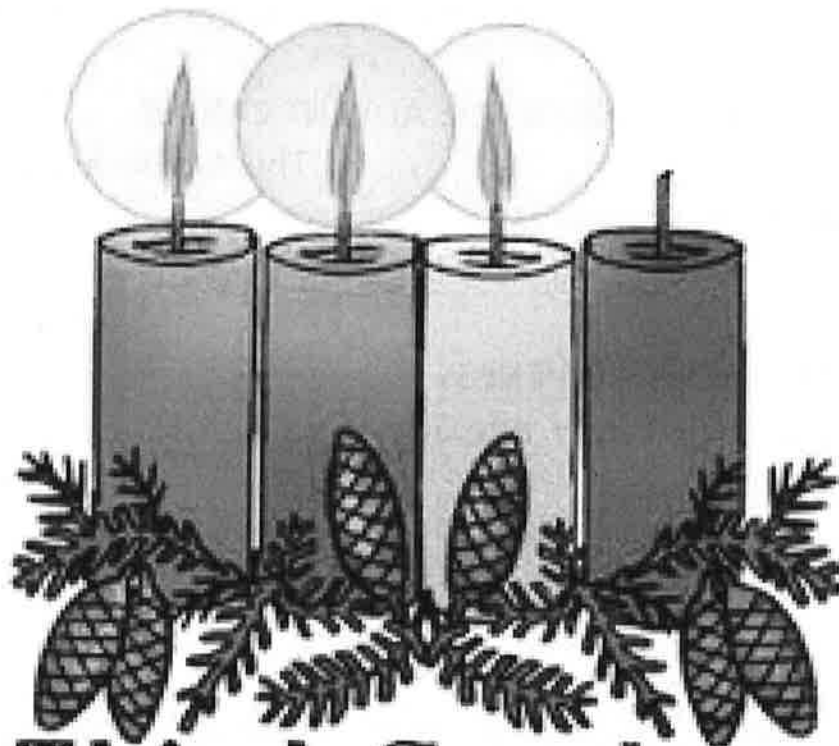


Zion Lutheran

**Mission: Creating Community Through
God's Love and Guidance**



Third Sunday of Advent

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024

ORDER OF SERVICE

(The assembly speaks the bold print)

PRELUDE

Please respect this time before worship for those who want to pray quietly in the sanctuary. Once the prelude begins, please use that time to listen to the music and prepare for worship. Thank you for your cooperation.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN#242

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

BLESSING AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Van Bommel Family

ADVENT WREATH HYMN#240

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”
verse 3 only

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.
Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.**

TOWER RINGERZ

“Carol of the Bells”

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 3:14-20

A reading from Zephaniah.

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸ as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6

Read responsively

² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³ **With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

⁴ And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵ **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from Philippians.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Setting 5

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:7-18

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord**

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." ¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹ In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³ He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." ¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Welcome the Child

(Baptismal Hymn for a New Child)



1. Wel - come the child who comes to be blessed,
 2. Joy - bring - er God, new life is our joy!
 3. Bless them by wa - ter, Spir - it and sign,
 4. Give them a Church with fam - i - ly claim.



wel - come the faith that makes the re - quest,
 Gift them with hope no hurt can de - stroy,
 bring them to share the bread and the wine,
 close - ness to Christ, not on - ly in name,



ech - o the words that Je - sus would say:
 keep them clear - eyed to won - der and trust,
 draw them, like frond of fern leaf un - curled,
 make them a source of light and de - light,



"Bring them and nev - er turn them a - way!"
 find - ing a peo - ple gen - tle and just.
 o - pen to love and life in your world.
 blessed with God's Grace and Con - firm - ants' rite.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

CHOIR

“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning”

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,
you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

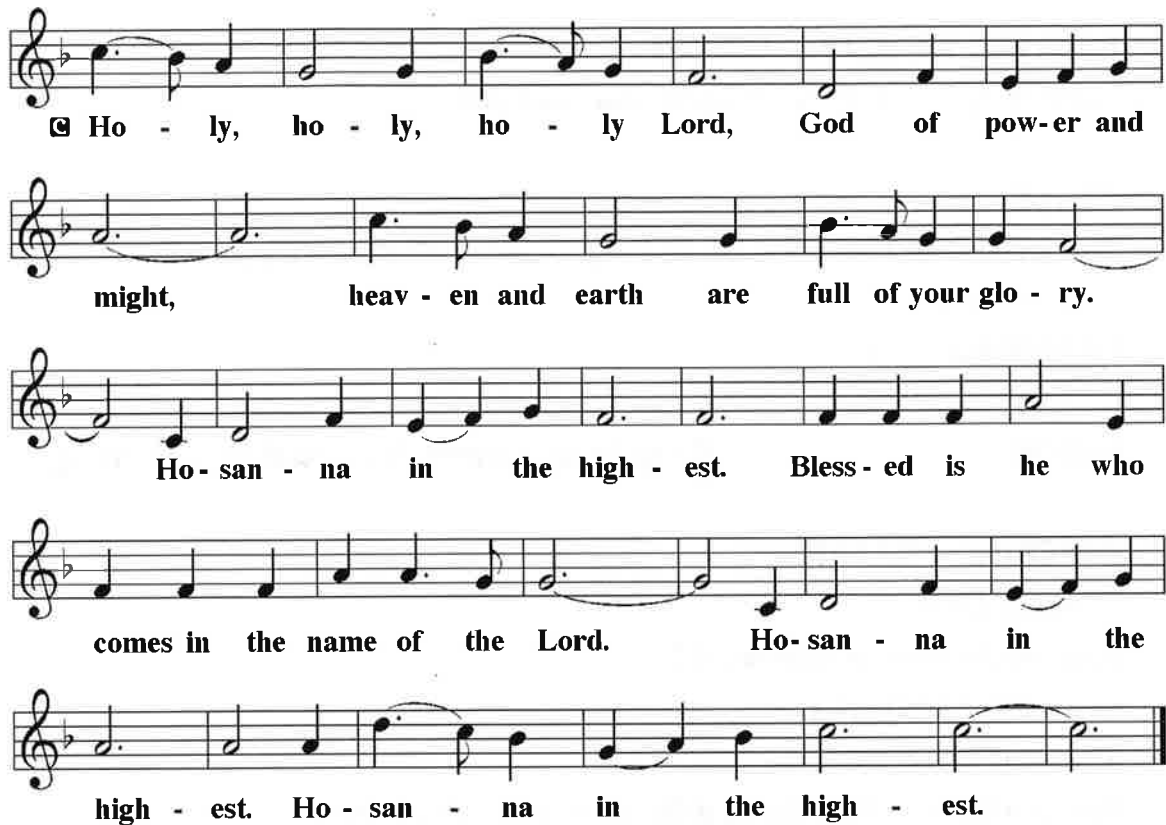
GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

HOLY HOLY HOLY

Setting 5



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

THE 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.

LAMB OF GOD

Setting 5

☩ 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, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

“We Are Waiting for Jesus”

song leader will sing verse 1 then congregation will sing verses 1 & 2.

We Are Waiting for Jesus



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

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TABLE BLESSING

Now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name.
Amen.

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
bless and keep you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN#249

“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry ”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**Creating Community through God's Love and Guidance —
thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

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heatherwatney@gmail.com

Choir Director: Cheryl Meyer

Handbells: Paula Staedt

Zion Lutheran 920-739-3104

Office hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30am-2pm. Closed Friday.

zion@zionappleton.org • www.zionappleton.org

For Pastoral emergencies contact the office.

Welcome!

We invite visitors to complete the card in the pew and put it in the collection basket. Thank You!

Attendance:

Last Week: 112

Last Year: 128

Announcements!

Congratulations to the family of Justin Thomas Webster who is being baptized today. His parents are Brooke & Kyle Webster. His sponsors are Zachary & Lacey Pliska. Please keep them in your prayers.

The last Advent service will be this Wednesday Dec. 18th. A Soup Supper will be from 5:00-6:15pm and the service is at 6:30pm. The Advent theme is Advent Stories in the Gospel of Luke.

There are Advent Study Guides and Calendars in the back of the sanctuary for you to have during the Advent Season. Please feel free to take one home with you.

Here is the advent wreath lighting schedule:

Third Sunday of Advent (December 15): The Van Bommel Family

Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 22): The Draheim-Budde Family

All 2024 donations need to be received by December 31, 2024.

Services will be held on Christmas Eve with a String Quartet at 4 pm and our Organ at 6 pm. There will not be a service on Christmas Day.

Each week a Daily Discipleship, which is a take home Bible Study, will be on the tables at the back of sanctuary for you to take with you. It will also be on the website in the section where the weekly bulletin is.

There will not be Tower Ringerz rehearsals on Dec 18, Dec 25 & Jan 1. The Zion Choir will not be rehearsing on December 22, 29, January 5, 12.

Thanks to a very generous donation from a Zion member, we have installed an upgraded sound system in our church sanctuary. The system will improve the quality of the sound in the church as well as on YouTube for our remote viewers as well.

See the insert for other announcements.

Take a candy cane ornament from our Giving Tree at the back of church, buy the food item listed and return it under the Giving Tree next week during service. The food collected will be used to fill Zion's Blessing Box and given to St. Joe's Food Pantry. There are also envelopes for monetary donations to St. Joe's Food Pantry & the Blessing Box. The Giving Tree will remain active through Epiphany (Sun, Jan 5).

We will be serving a catered brunch on Epiphany, Sunday, January 5, 2025. The brunch will be catered by Chef Joe Worden, formally chef at Grand Meridian. The cost will be \$5.00 for all adults, children not yet confirmed will be free of charge. Please put your money in any pew envelope & mark on the outside- Epiphany Brunch. Include the names of the people coming & if they are an adult or child. Put it in the offering basket. RSVPs are needed by Dec. 22nd. We will also need help with set up and clean up. Please see Deb Reis if you are willing to help.

Alliance Church, 2693 W. Grand Chute Blvd, Appleton is having a free event from Dec. 19-22. It is called Streets of Bethlehem. See the announcement in the back of the sanctuary & in the narthex with the details.

<p>Sunday, December 15</p> <p>Zeph 3:14-20, Isa 12:2-6 Phil 4:4-7, Luke 3:7-18</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 8-8:45 am</p> <p>Worship Service 9:00 am</p> <p>followed by Coffee Hour</p>	<p>Third Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Baptism of Justin Thomas Webster</p> <p>Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer</p> <p>Assisting Minister: Deb Reis</p> <p>Reader: Wesley Staedt</p> <p>Acolyte: Charlee Weiland</p> <p>Musician: Jim Schley</p> <p>Opens and Closes: Jim Schley</p> <p>Lights Advent Candles: The Van Bommel Family</p>
<p>Monday, December 16</p>	<p>Parish Council Meeting 6:30 pm</p>
<p>Wednesday, December 18</p> <p>Advent Meal 5:00 pm</p> <p>Worship Service 6:30 pm</p>	<p>Third Week of Advent</p> <p>Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer</p> <p>Cantor: Cheryl Meyer</p> <p>Musician: Heather Watney</p> <p>No Tower RingerZ Rehearsal</p>
<p>Thursday, December 19</p>	<p>Lunch Social 11:30</p>
<p>Sunday, December 22</p> <p>Micah 5:2-5a, Luke 1:46b-55 Heb 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45[46-55]</p> <p>No Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Worship Service 9:00 am</p> <p>followed by Coffee Hour</p>	<p>Third Sunday of Advent</p> <p>Vicar Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer</p> <p>Assisting Minister: Wendy Sachs</p> <p>Reader: Kyle Moseng</p> <p>Acolyte: Freya Budde</p> <p>Musician: Heather Watney</p> <p>Opens: Gene Wiese</p> <p>Closes: Tammy Mossholder</p> <p>Musician: Jim Schley 7:00pm</p> <p>Lights Advent Candles: The Draheim-Budde Family</p>

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
 He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
 He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

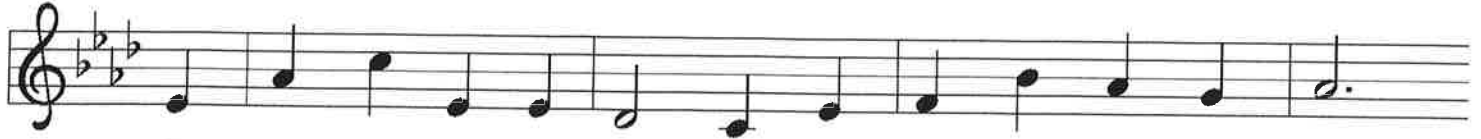
Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

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Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



- 1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
- 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
- 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
- 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

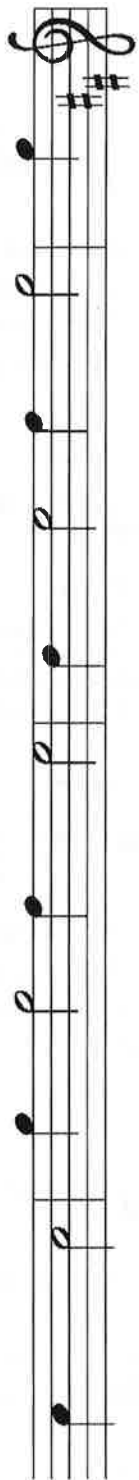


The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

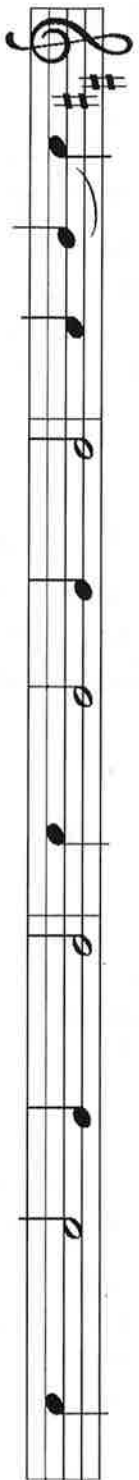


Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

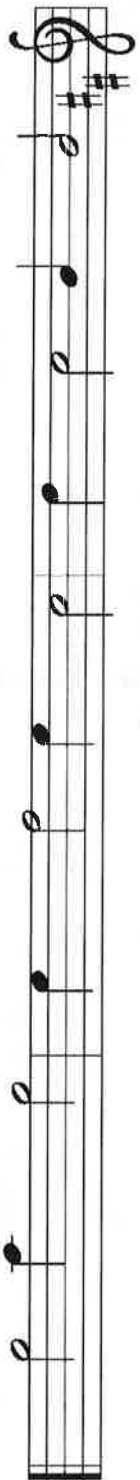
On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



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



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for our God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of 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.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621