



Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding 345

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
 △ 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!

and tune: Public domain

Text

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding”

This hymn urges close attention to the earthly coming of Jesus at Christmas. It ends up pointing to Christ’s second coming on the last day.

In verse 1 we are urged to get excited about Christ’s coming this Christmas. Its words tell us that we are getting really close. They remind us to get prepared for this season by getting rid of the things that would stand in the way of a great and joyous celebration. That is what Advent is all about.

Verse 2 is summed up well by Luke 1:78-79, where it says: “because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” The verse reminds us of a morning that begins with thick fog, and then the sun burns it off and leaves us with a bright, sunshiny day.

Verse 3 urges us to come speedily with penitent hearts and tears to latch onto the great blessing of forgiveness for all our sins.

Isaiah 25:7-9 describes how the redemption of God’s people will mark the end of sorrow. Jerusalem, rebuilt after the Babylonian exile, was a significant milestone on God’s way to shed the light of His glory. But even when all earthly cities pass away, he will be the everlasting light in “the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven” (Revelation 21:2). Its residents will swell to a multitude, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands. While much of the world will tremble at the coming of Christ, we Christians need not fear, but rest in God’s mercy and be drawn near with Jesus’ wondrous words of love. Verse 5 wraps everything up with a doxology to the triune God.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for helping me see that Jesus is the real reason for the Christmas season. Help us keep our hearts and minds focused on him. Thank you also for the wonderful news that we will be a part of that great gathering on the Last Day. Amen.