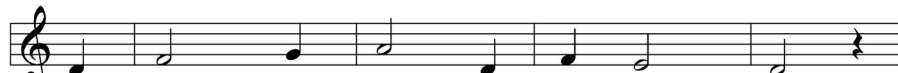


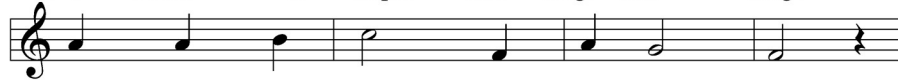


O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

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1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide;
 2 O Fa - ther, light from heav - en send;
 3 O earth, in flow'r - ing bud be seen;
 4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?



Come down, come down with might - y stride;
 As morn - ing dew, O Son, de - scend.
 Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.
 When will You come with com - fort strong?



Un - lock the gates, the doors break down;
 Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring:
 Bring forth, O earth, a blos - som rare,
 O come, O come, Your throne fore - go;



Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.
 To Ja - cob's line rain down the King.
 Our Sav - ior, sprung from mead - ow fair.
 Con - sole us in our vale of woe.

- 5 O Morning Star, O radiant Sun, When will our hearts behold Your dawn?
O Sun, arise; without Your light We grope in gloom and dark of night.
- 6 Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies; Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.
O come, lead us with mighty hand From exile to our promised land.
- 7 There shall we all our praises bring And sing to You, our Savior King;
There shall we laud You and adore Forever and forevermore.

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“O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide”

Children are so excited by the presents they receive that they just rip the wrapping off so they can get a look at the gift inside. This hymn expresses that same excitement that we feel as we await Christmas. Isaiah 64:1 relates to our hymn when it says, “Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence.” The sky is compared to a tent curtain separating heaven and earth, God from humans. This is like the temple curtain torn from top to bottom on Good Friday.

In Psalm 18:7-15, we read of when the Lord came to the aid of his servant David, descending in wrathful attack upon David’s enemies. The language of this section reminds us of two events: God’s awesome appearance at Mt Sinai and his return on Judgment Day. By using language borrowed from descriptions of the last day, David shows that God’s judgments on David’s enemies are a foreshadowing of the great judgment to come.

When verse 1 says, “Come down, come down,” it again relates to Isaiah 64:1, where the prophet’s petition is that God would come down to save his people in a dramatic and powerful way.

Verse 2 asks the Father to send his blessings as the morning dew. It also traces Jesus’ kingly lineage back to Jacob. Verse 3 compares the earth’s awakening in spring to Christ being “sprung from a meadow fair.”

Verse 4 calls Jesus “O Fount of hope” and begs him to come with comfort, leaving his heavenly home to console us, who are in deepest anguish.

Verse 5 recalls Jesus as the Morning Star (brightest of morning lights). It asks that this brilliance would bring illumination to our cloudy, sin-filled life. Verse 6 also addresses our sin-clouded life and asks that the Lord would use his mighty hand to bring us from sin’s exile to our heavenly promised land.

Verse 7 calls for praises to our Savior King for all he has done and will do.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for your powerful act of salvation, tearing up the barrier that our sins create. Thank you for bringing brightness to our gloomy, sin-filled world. Help us look ahead not only to Christmas but also to our time in eternity with you. Amen.

