



Arise, O Christian People

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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 -
 heeds 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 and tune: Public domain

“Arise, O Christian People”

When we hear about someone coming who is very special, we quickly take an inventory of what we need to do to get ready.

Stanza 1 tells us how we Christians can prepare for the Savior of the world. It points out three reasons that our Savior deserves special respect. First, he takes our sins away; second, he does this by grace alone; and finally, he gives us the truth and light that can be found in the Scriptures.

Luke 3:4-5 gives us not only Isaiah’s prophecy but also his instructions for preparing for the Savior of the world: *As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways.’”*

John the Baptist makes it clear that repentance is the way to prepare for the coming Savior. Repentance is only possible when the Word of God comes to help us see our sins and then quickly gives us his grace before we become overwhelmed. God knows what we need and provides it.

1 Peter 5:6 tells us: “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you.” God’s help will come at just the right time.

Psalms 51:10-12 is a prayer for purity: “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.” These words also express confidence that God will answer David’s prayer, because the prayer is followed immediately by David’s promise of what he will do when his prayer is answered.

With the approach of Christmas, we, too, can look forward to Christ’s coming and have the joy of God’s salvation.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for this Advent season and for the ability to get ready for your coming. Thank you for always having your gospel ready to cleanse our hearts and minds from all distractions this season. Amen.