



Lord's Day Service

At Church of the King on September 13th, 2026
The 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time

"How sweet are Your words to my taste, Sweeter than honey to my mouth!" Psalms 119:103

Call to Worship: Where God Calls Us Into His Presence

"That you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints," Ephesians 1:18b

Hear Today's Call to Worship From God's Word: [congregation standing]

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. Galatians 1:3-5 **Come Worship the Triune God, Creator & Savior of the World!**

God's People Respond With a Hymn of Adoration: [based on Psalm 145:10]

O worship the King all glorious above,	O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
O gratefully sing his power and His love.	Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
Our shield and defender, the ancient of days,	His chariot of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.	And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

Salutation and Response: [based on Matthew 28:19, Ruth 2:4 and Galatians 2:20]

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Amen!

Jehovah be with you!

And also with you!

I have been crucified with Christ;

It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;

And the life which I now live in the flesh

I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Confession of Sins: Where God Cleanses Us In Christ

"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love," Ephesians 4:1,2

The Call For Confession From God's Word:

"Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe." Galatians 3:21-22

God's People Sing Our Hymn of Confession:

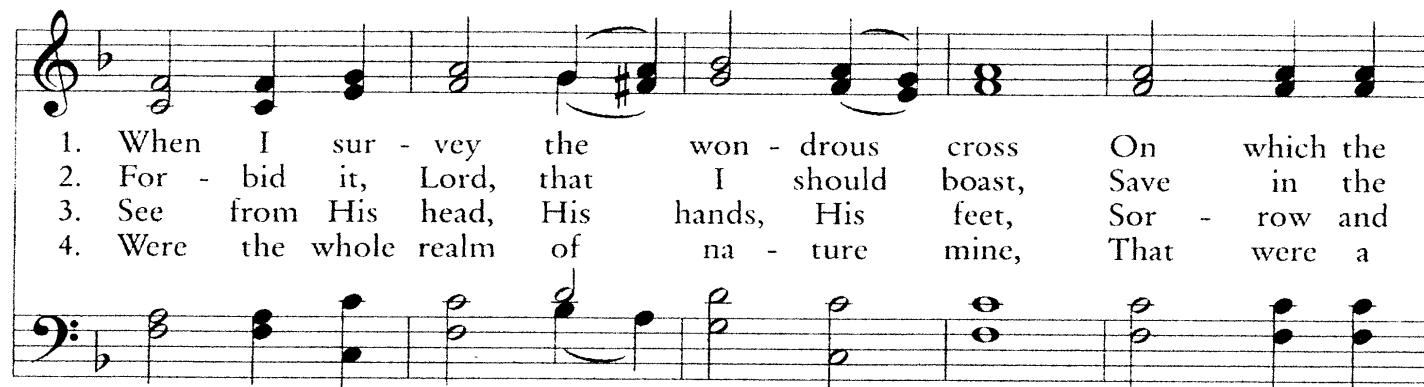
[congregation standing]

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

HAMBURG (L.M.)

Lowell Mason, 1824

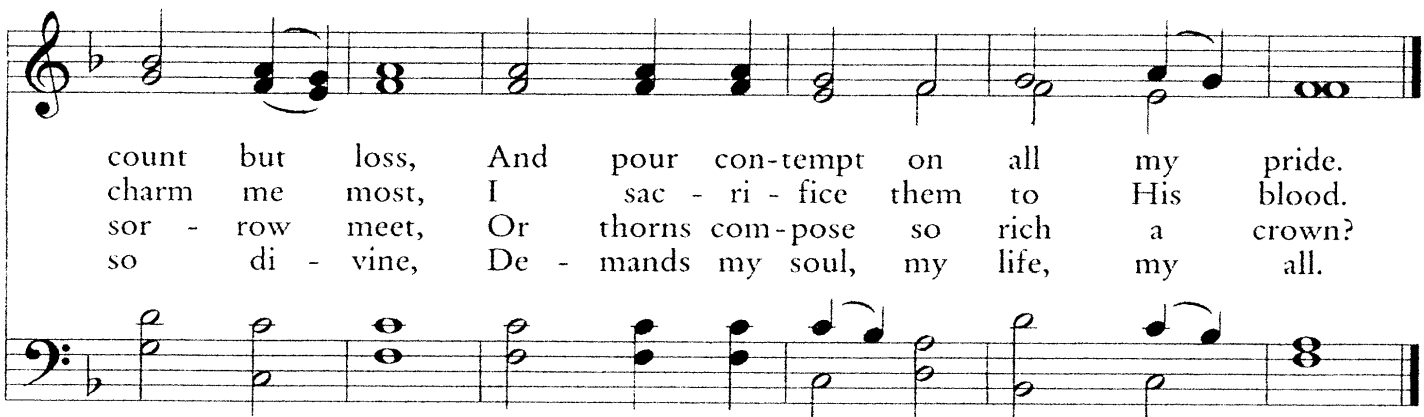
Isaac Watts, 1707



1. When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
2. For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast, Save in the
3. See from His head, His hands, His feet, Sor - row and
4. Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
death of Christ my God! All the vain things that
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small: Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss, And pour con-tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
sor - row meet, Or thorns com-pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Silent Confession:

"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God." Romans 8:26-27

Those who are willing and able are invited to kneel for our time of confession.

Corporate Prayer of Confession:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty who was and is and is to come. In your merciful presence we confess that we have broken your Law, both in what we have done and what we have left undone. We confess that these trespasses, apart from your Grace, result in our impurity, and also make us liable to receive your just punishments. We confess our sins and ask that you wash us from our impurities through the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ. We acknowledge our iniquities, and ask that you shield us from punishment through the atoning death of our Savior. From our violations of your just Law, forgive us through the perfect obedience of our Lord, and empower us to love mercy, do justice and walk humbly with You. Finally, we ask you to receive our praise and worship, for we speak in the blessed name of Jesus, and seek the visible manifestation of His Kingdom on earth. Amen.

Arise and Receive the Assurance of Pardon & Forgiveness

*"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Galatians 3:26-29*

Congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for our sins and to be raised for our justification; and for His sake forgives us all our sins. This I declare in the name and authority of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Having confessed our sins with faith in the completed work of Christ on our behalf, we are forgiven; we have been cleansed and clothed in the righteousness of Jesus. And not only that, we are now **in Christ** and **in Him** we are in the heavenly places, in the very midst of the blessed Trinity with the Saints of all the ages, from every tongue, tribe and nation prepared to worship in the beauty of holiness. **Come, let us worship the Lord!**

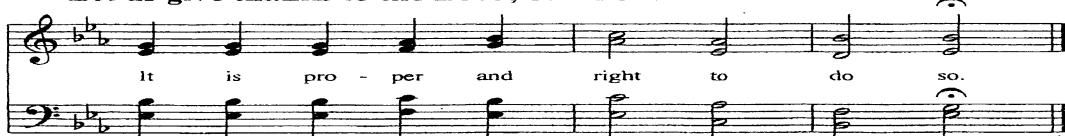
Come Bless the Father:



Lift up your hearts!



Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!



Truly it is proper and right that we should at all times and in all places give praise to you O LORD. And so, with the angels and all the company of heaven and with the Church, as she gathers throughout the world this day, we praise and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you & singing:

God's People Sing a Hymn of Thanks:

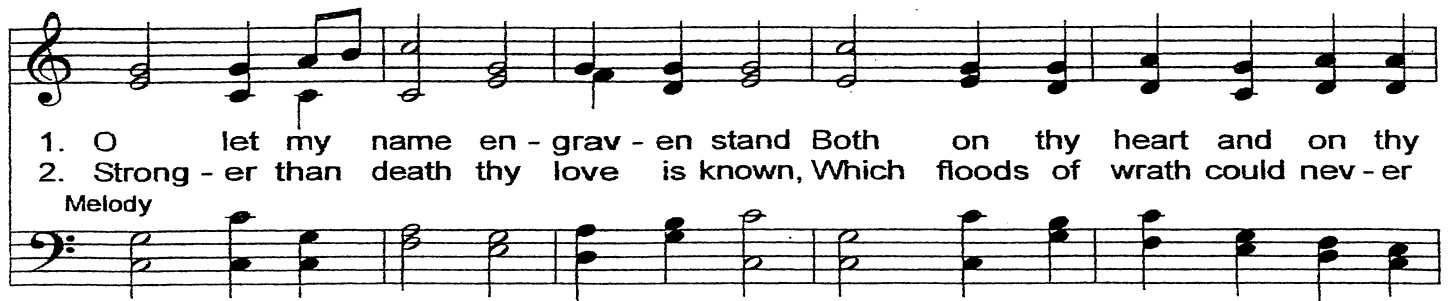
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"Giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ," Ephesians 5:20

O Let My Name Engraven Stand

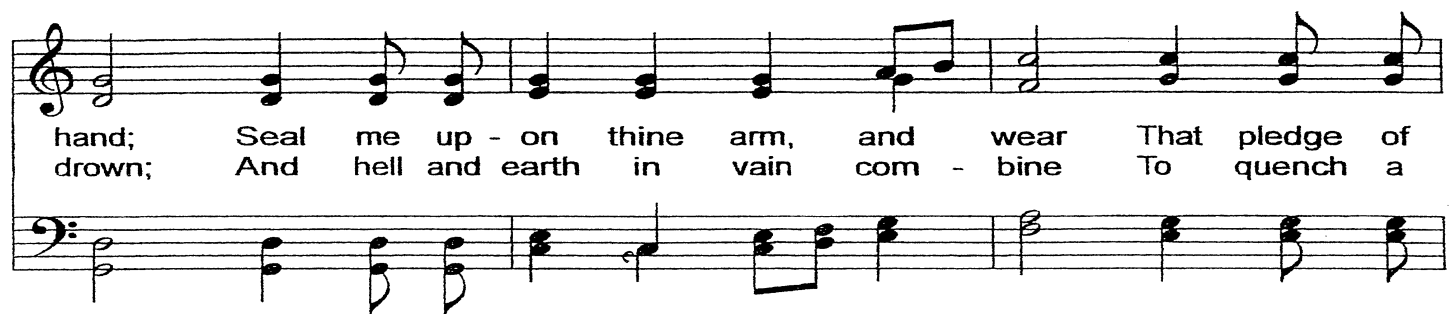
INVITATION (L.M.)
Jacob Kimball, 1784

Isaac Watts, 1709



1. O let my name en - grav - en stand Both on thy heart and on thy
2. Strong - er than death thy love is known, Which floods of wrath could nev - er

Melody

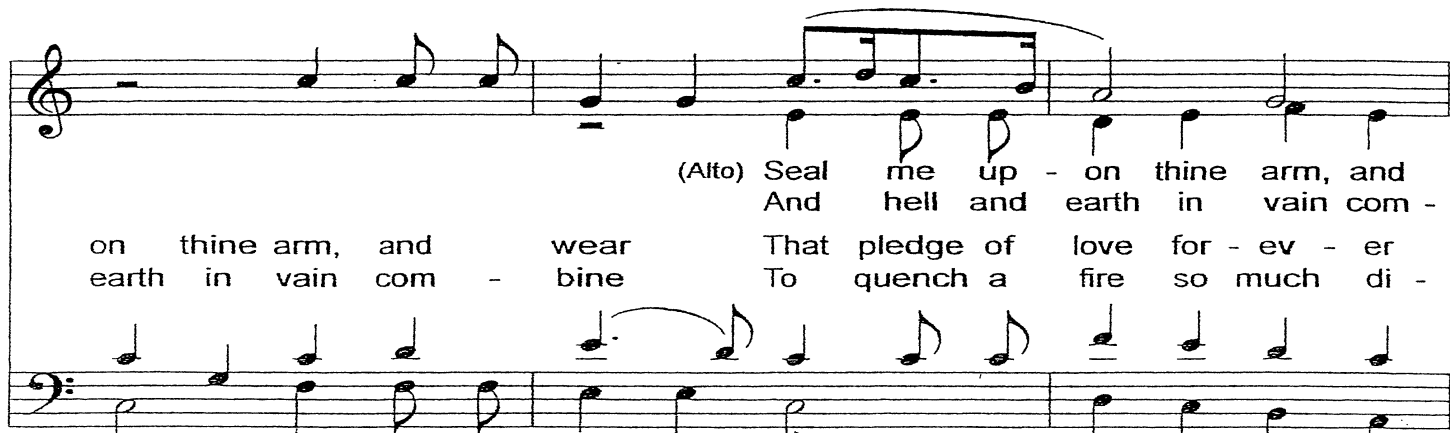


hand; Seal me up - on thine arm, and wear That pledge of
drown; And hell and earth in vain com - bine To quench a



love for - ev - er there, (Tenor) Seal me up -
fire so much di - vine, And hell and

(Soprano) Seal me up - on thine arm, and
And hell and earth in vain com -



(Alto) Seal me up - on thine arm, and
And hell and earth in vain com -

on thine arm, and wear That pledge of love for - ev - er
earth in vain com - bine To quench a fire so much di -

wear That pledge of love for - ev - er
bine To quench a fire so much di -



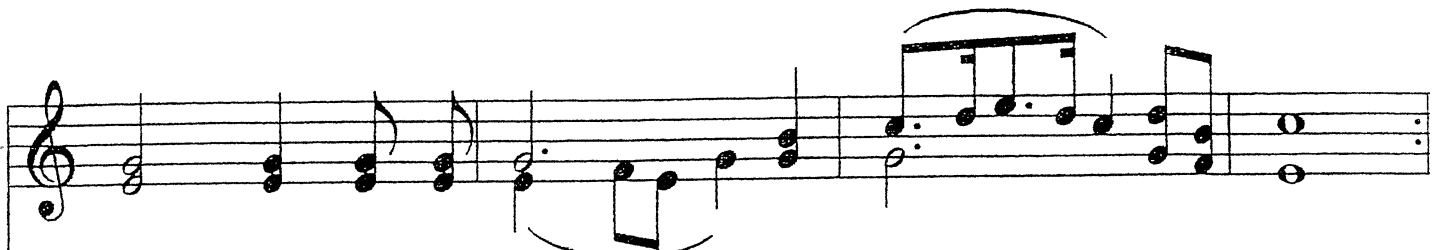
(Soprano & Alto)

wear That _____ pledge of love for - ev - er
bine To _____ quench a fire so much di -

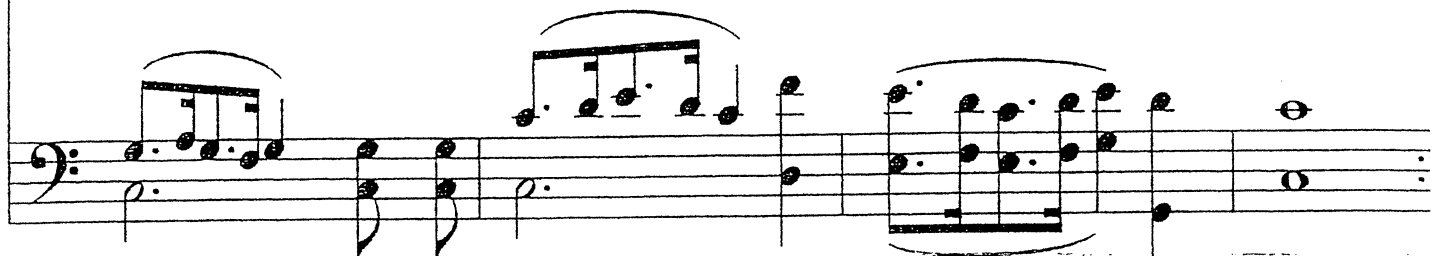


(Tenor & Bass)

there, Seal me up - on thine arm, _____ and wear
vine, And hell and earth in vain _____ com - bine



there, That pledge of love _____ for - ev - - er there.
vine, To quench a fire _____ so much _____ di - vine.



That _____ pledge of love _____ for - ev - - er there.
To _____ quench a fire _____ so much _____ di - vine.

3. Come, my Beloved, haste away,
Cut short the hours of thy delay;
Fly like a youthful hart or roe
Over the hills where spices grow.

Consecration: Where God Equips & Prepares His People

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Galatians 5:22-25

Proverbs 23:4-35

Hear Your Father

Do not overwork to be rich; Because of your own understanding, cease!

Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For *riches* certainly make themselves wings; They fly away like an eagle *toward* heaven.

Do not eat the bread of a miser, nor desire his delicacies;

For as he thinks in his heart, so *is* he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, but his heart is not with you.

The morsel you have eaten, you will vomit up, and waste your pleasant words.

Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words.

Do not remove the ancient landmark, nor enter the fields of the fatherless;

For their Redeemer *is* mighty; He will plead their cause against you.

Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to words of knowledge.

Do not withhold correction from a child, for *if* you beat him with a rod, he will not die.

You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from hell.

My son, if your heart is wise, my heart will rejoice —

Indeed, I myself; Yes, my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak right things.

Do not let your heart envy sinners, but *be zealous* for the fear of Jehovah all the day;

For surely there is a hereafter, and your hope will not be cut off.

Hear, my son, and be wise; And guide your heart in the way.

Do not mix with winebibbers, *or* with gluttonous eaters of meat;

For the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe *a man* with rags.

Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

Buy the truth, and do not sell *it*, *also* wisdom and instruction and understanding.

The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise *child* will delight in him.

Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her who bore you rejoice.

My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.

For a harlot *is* a deep pit, and a seductress *is* a narrow well.

She also lies in wait as *for* a victim, and increases the unfaithful among men.

Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed wine.

Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup,
when it swirls around smoothly;

At the last it bites like a serpent, And stings like a viper.

Your eyes will see strange things, And your heart will utter perverse things.

Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, or like one who lies at the top of the mast, *saying*: "They have struck me, *but* I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel *it*. When shall I awake, that I may seek another *drink*?"

God's People Respond With a Hymn of Preparation:

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

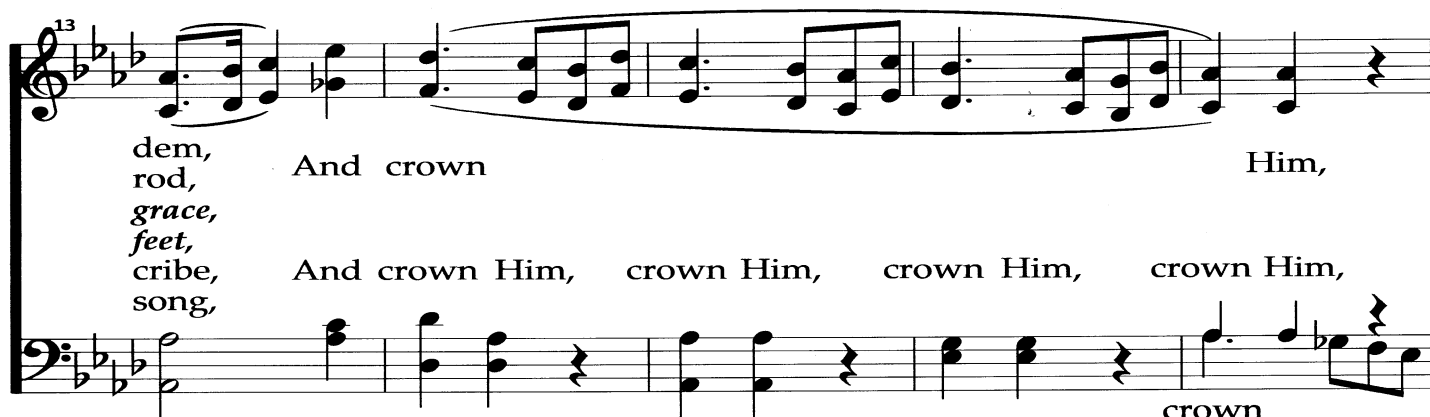
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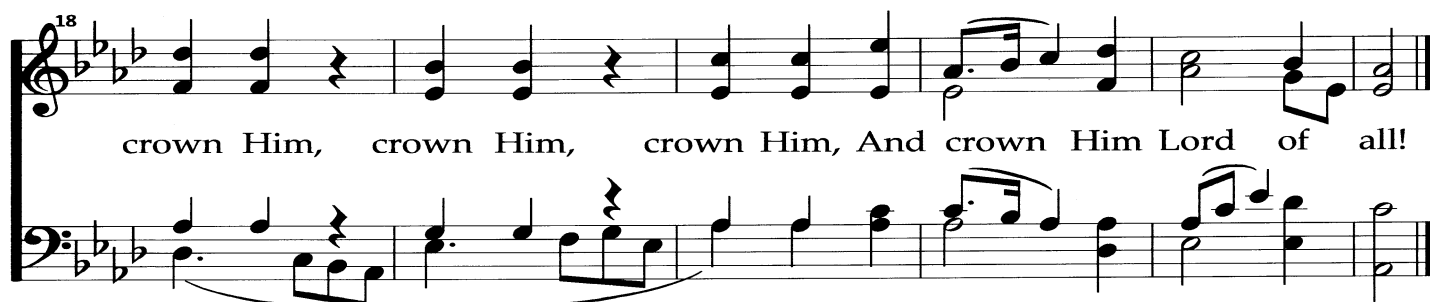
1. All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate
2. Crown Him, ye mar - tyrs of your God, Who from His al - tar
3. Ye cho - sen seed of Is - rael's race, Ye ran - sored from the
4. Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get The worm - wood and the
5. Let ev - 'ry kin - dred, ev - 'ry tribe On this ter - res - trial
6. Oh, that with yon - der sa - cred throng We at His feet may



fall; Let an - gels pros - trate fall; Bring forth the roy - al di - a -
call, Who from His al - tar call; Ex - tol the Stem of Jes - se's
fall, Ye ran - sored from the fall, Hail Him who saves you by His
gall, The worm - wood and the gall, Go, spread your tro - phies at His
ball, On this ter - res - trial ball, To Him all maj - es - ty as -
fall! We at His feet may fall! We'll join the ev - er - last - ing



dem, And crown Him,
rod, grace,
feet, crie, And crown Him, crown Him, crown Him, crown Him,
song, crown



crown Him, crown Him, crown Him, And crown Him Lord of all!

Music: James Ellor (1819–1899)

Text: st. 1–4, Edward Perronet, 1780; st. 5 & 6, John Rippon, 1787

DIADEM

8 6. 8 6. w/ repeats

God Speaks to Us Through His Word: Scripture, Prayer for Illumination, and Sermon

"Blessed is the man whom You instruct, O Jehovah, and teach out of Your law." Psalm 94:12

"For God So Loved The World"

From **Pastor Paul Liberati**

based on **John 3:14-21**

John 3:14-21 (NKJV)

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. ²¹ But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

Notes:

God's People Sing a Hymn of Response:

[congregation standing]

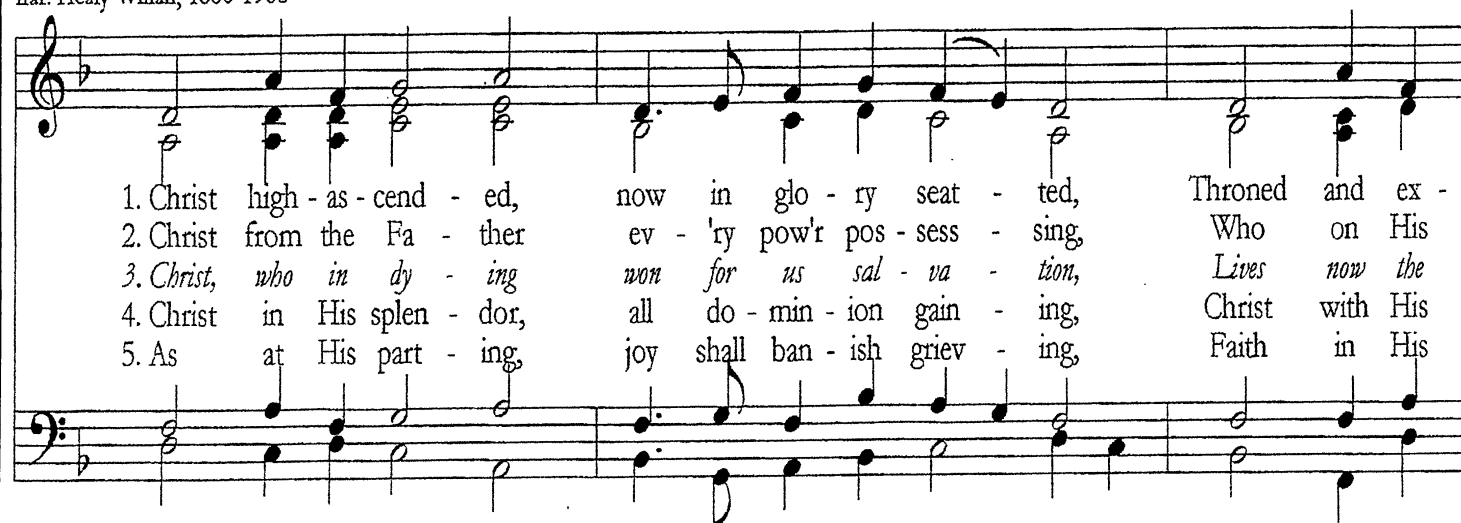
Christ High-Ascended Now in Glory Seated

ISTE CONFESSOR (11. 11. 11. 5)

Rouen Church Melody

har. Healy Willan, 1880-1968

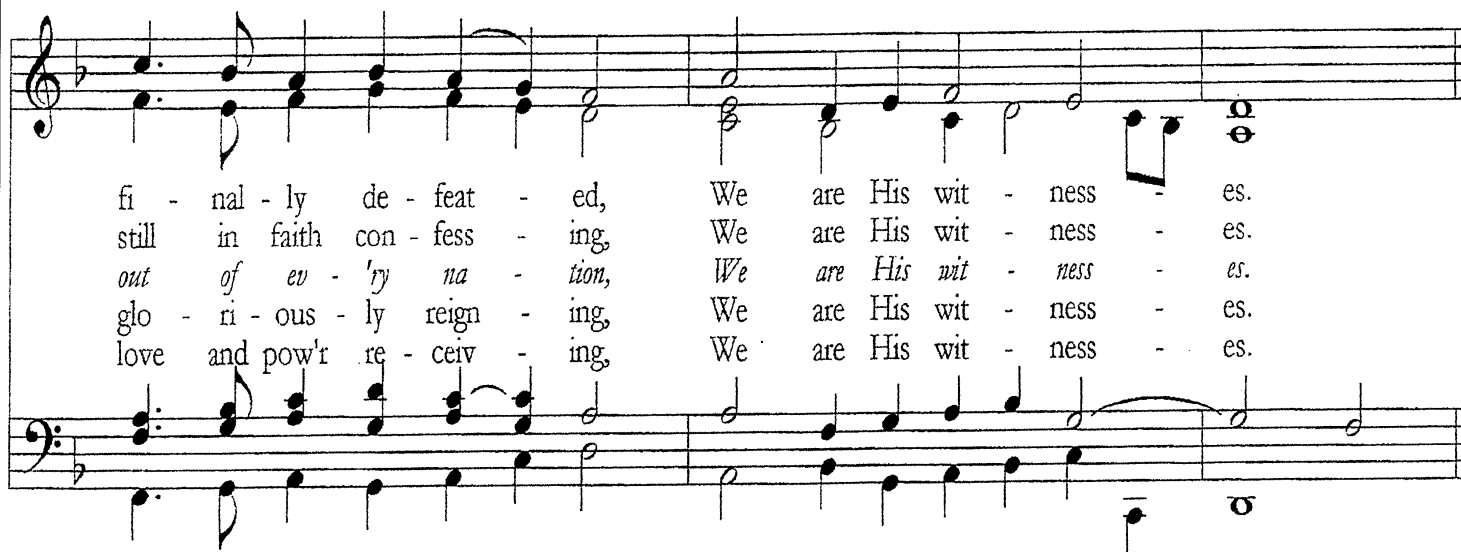
Timothy Dudley-Smith, B. 1926



1. Christ high - as - cend - ed, now in glo - ry seat - ted, Throned and ex -
2. Christ from the Fa - ther ev - 'ry pow'r pos - sess - sing, Who on His
3. Christ, who in dy - ing won for us sal - va - tion, Lives now the
4. Christ in His splen - dor, all do - min - ion gain - ing, Christ with His
5. As at His part - ing, joy shall ban - ish griev - ing, Faith in His



alt - ed, vic - to - ry com - let - ed, Death's dread do - min - ion
Cho - sen lift - ed hands in bless - ing, Sends forth His ser - vants,
first - born of the new cre - a - tion; To win dis - ci - ples
peo - ple ev - er - more re - main - ing, Christ to all a - ges
pres - ence strength - en our be - liev - ing; Filled with His Spir - it,



fi - nal - ly de - feat - ed, We are His wit - ness - es.
still in faith con - fess - ing, We are His wit - ness - es.
out of ev - 'ry na - tion, We are His wit - ness - es.
glo - ri - ous - ly reign - ing, We are His wit - ness - es.
love and pow'r re - ceiv - ing, We are His wit - ness - es.

God Receives our Tithes and Gifts as a Tribute Offering: [read in unison]

“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”*

Galatians 5:13-14

Presenting Our Tithes and Offering:

With the singing of Psalm 27:4-5 & the Doxology

Words composed by Brenda Fisher

1: One thing from God have I desired, 2: In troubled times He makes me hide.

That in His house I may inquire,

He hides me secretly inside.

So on His beauty I may gaze.

Within His tabernacle home,

I seek to dwell there all my days.

He sets me high upon a stone.

3: Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above ye heavenly host,

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

The Great Prayer, Concluding with the Lord's Prayer

Patrick Avanto

“Jehovah has heard my supplication; Jehovah will receive my prayer.” Psalm 6:9

Our Father,

Which 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 debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one,

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory forever: AMEN

[Matthew 6:9-13]

Communion: Where God Communes With His People

“The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?

The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?” 1 Corinthians 10:16

Preparation for Communion

Congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ,

the Lord has prepared His table for all who love and trust Him for their salvation. All those who have repented of their sins, have been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and are not under discipline from Christ's Church are welcome at this table. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as our Lord our God will call.

Our Confession of Faith - The Apostle's Creed [sung with music by Amber Bartels]

Piano

I be-lieve in God the Fa-ther Al-migh-ty, Ma-ker of hea-ven and earth;

And in Je-sus Christ, His on-ly be-got-ten Son, our Lord; Who was con-ceived by the

Ho-ly Spi-rit, born of the vir-gin Ma-ry, Suf-fered un-der Pon-tius

Pi-late, was dru-bi-fied, dead and bur-ied; He de-scend-ed in-to

hell, the thir-d day He rose a-gain from the dead; He as-cend-ed in-to

heav-en, and sit-teth at the right hand of God the Fath-er Al-might-ty; From

thence He shall come to judge the liv-ing and the dead. I be-lieve in the Ho-ly Spi-rit,

I be-lieve a ho-ly cath-olic Church, the com-mun-ion of saints, the for-give-ness of sins; the

re-sur-rec-tion of the bo-dy, and the life ey-er-last-ing. A-men.

THE LORD COMMUNES WITH US AT HIS TABLE: (Peace Offering, Gift of Life)

A Word of Encouragement -- Giving of Thanks -- Breaking of the Bread

God's People Sing a Hymn of Thanks and Celebration:

(Sung as a representative of each family comes forward to receive their bread and wine)

Word and Water, Bread and Wine

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five systems of staves. The lyrics are written below the staves, with some words placed above specific notes. The melody is indicated by a 'melody' label on the first system. The lyrics are as follows:

1. Our tri - une God rules o - ver all, And feeds all creatures great and small.
2. His Word re - stores the blind to sight; Our God has made the dark-ness light.

From sky, from earth, from
Clean wa - ter on our

From sky, from earth, from sky a - gain, From Clean
Clean wa - ter on our heads was poured, Clean

From sky, from earth, from sky a - gain, From sky, from
Clean wa - ter on our heads was poured, Clean wa - ter

sky heads a - gain, Our God feeds all the sons of men.
was poured, We took the name of Je - sus, Lord.

sky, from earth, from sky a - gain,
wa - ter on our heads was poured,
sky, from earth, from sky a - gain,
wa - ter on our heads was poured,

earth, on from sky a - gain, Our God feeds all the sons of men.
on our heads was poured, We took the name of Je - sus, Lord.

From sky, from earth, from sky a - gain, Our God feeds all the sons of men.
Clean wa - ter on our heads was poured, We took the name of Je - sus, Lord.

3. At this great table, wine and bread
Will weave us now into the Head,
As we grow to a perfect man
And there fulfill salvation's plan.

4. The Lord has spoken living words,
He gave us ears, and thus we heard.
We will not give our sons a stone,
We will not live by bread alone.

5. Salvation comes and — face to face —
He sets before us means of grace.

Music: Oliver Holden (1765–1844)
Text: Douglas Wilson. 2005 ©

We know all this was kindly meant;
We taste the Word and sacrament.

COWPER
8 8. 8 8. w/ repeat

Feasting At The Lord's Table: A simple act of obedience on the 1st day of a new Week

Partaking of the bread together -- Giving Thanks -- Partaking of the Wine

"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes." 1 Corinthians 11:26

Commissioning: Where God Sends Out His People

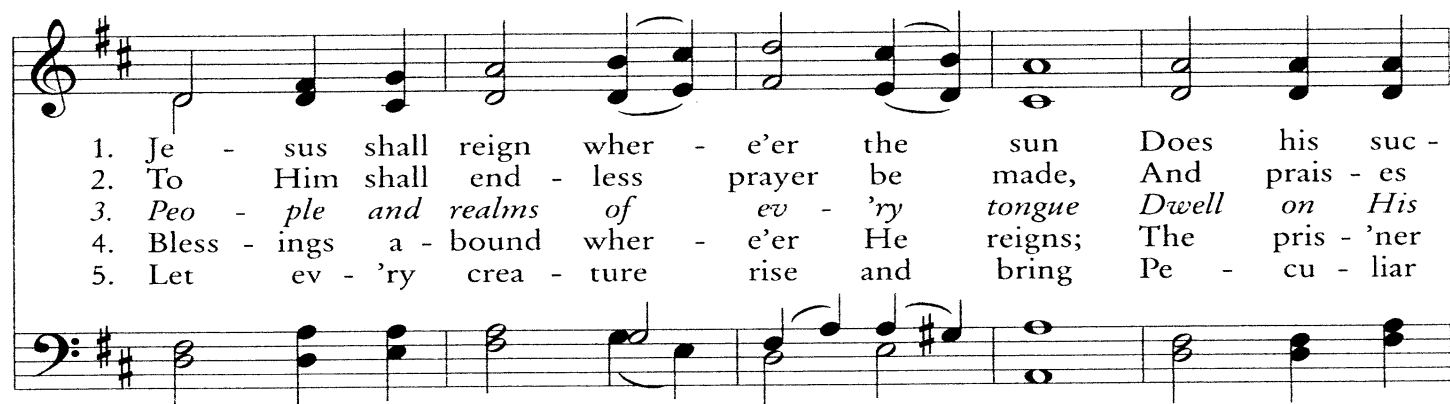
"Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS." Revelation 19:11-16

God's People Respond With Singing:

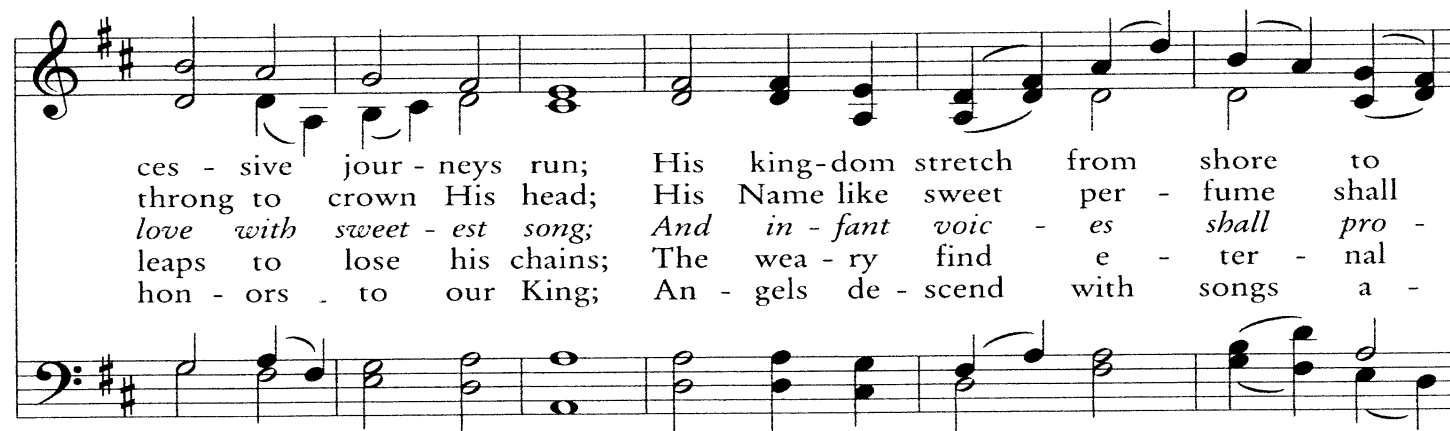
Jesus Shall Reign

DUKE STREET (L.M.)
John Hatton, 1793

Isaac Watts, 1719



1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Does his suc -
2. To Him shall end - less prayer be made, And prais - es
3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue Dwell on His
4. Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns; The pris - 'ner
5. Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring Pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from shore to
throng to crown His head; His Name like sweet per - fume shall
love with sweet - est song; And in - fant voic - es shall pro -
leaps to lose his chains; The wea - ry find e - ter - nal
hon - ors - to our King; An - gels de - scend with songs a -



shore, Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
rise With ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on His Name.
rest, And all the sons of want are blessed.
gain, And earth re - peat the loud a - men!

God Blesses His People – The Benediction:

[congregation standing]

*Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them,
and he came down from offering the sin offering and the burnt offering and the peace offerings. Leviticus 9:22*

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.” Jude 24,25, 2 Corinthians 13:14

God’s People Depart to Serve the Risen & Reigning Savior by Singing:

Simeon’s Prayer & the Gloria Patri

Lord, now let- test Thou Thy ser- vant de- part in peace, ac- cord- ing to Thy Word:

For mine eyes have seen Thy sal-va- tion, Which Thou hast pre- pared be- fore the face of all peo- ple;

A light to ligh- ten the Gen- tiles, and the glo- ry of Thy peo- ple Is - ra - el.

***With Lifted Hands:* Glory Be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen**

The Heidelberg Catechism - Lord’s Day 37

101. But may we swear reverently by the name of God? **Yes, when the magistrate requires it, or when it may be needful otherwise, to maintain and promote fidelity and truth to the glory of God and our neighbor’s good; for such an oath is grounded in God’s Word,[1] and therefore was rightly used by the saints in the Old and New Testaments.[2]** [1] Deut. 10:20; Isa. 48:1; Heb. 6:16. [2] Gen. 21:24; 31:53–54; Josh. 9:15, 19; 1 Sam. 24:22; 1 Kgs. 1:29; Rom. 1:9.

102. May we swear by “the saints” or by any other creatures? **No, for a lawful oath is a calling upon God, that He, as the only searcher of hearts, may bear witness to the truth, and punish me if I swear falsely;[1] which honor is due to no creature.[2]** [1] 2 Cor. 1:23. [2] Matt. 5:34–36; *Jer. 5:7; *Isa. 65:16.

The Heidelberg Catechism – Questions 1–26

1. What is your only comfort in life and in death? **That I, with body and soul, both in life and in death,[1] am not my own,[2] but belong to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ,[3] who with His precious blood [4] has fully satisfied for all my sins,[5] and redeemed me from all the power of the devil;[6] and so preserves me [7] that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head;[8] indeed, that all things must work together for my salvation.[9] Wherefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life,[10] and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live unto Him.[11]**[1] Rom. 14:7–8. [2] 1Cor. 6:19. [3] 1Cor. 3:23. [4] 1Pet. 1:18–19. [5] 1Jn. 1:7; 2:2. [6] 1Jn. 3:8. [7] Jn. 6:39. [8] Matt. 10:29–30; Lk. 21:18. [9] Rom. 8:28. [10] 2Cor. 1:21–22; Eph. 1:13–14; Rom. 8:16. [11] Rom. 8:1
2. How many things are necessary for you to know, that in this comfort you may live and die happily? **Three things:[1] First, the greatness of my sin and misery.[2] Second, how I am redeemed from all my sins and misery.[3] Third, how I am to be thankful to God for such redemption.[4]** [1] Lk. 24:46–47; 1 Cor. 6:11; Tit. 3:3–7. [2] Jn. 9:41; 15:22. [3] Jn. 17:3. [4] Eph. 5:8–11; 1 Pet. 2:9–12; Rom. 6:11–14; *Rom. 7:24–25; *Gal. 3:13; *Col. 3:17.
3. From where do you know your misery? **From the Law of God.[1]** [1] Rom. 3:20; *Rom. 7:7.
4. What does the Law of God require of us? **Christ teaches us in sum, Matthew 22, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”[1]** [1] Matt. 22:37–40; Lk. 10:27. *Deut. 6:5. *Gal. 5:14.
5. Can you keep all this perfectly? **No,[1] for I am prone by nature to hate God and my neighbor.[2]** [1] Rom. 3:10–12, 23; 1 Jn. 1:8, 10. [2] Rom. 8:7; Eph. 2:3.
6. Did God create man thus, wicked and perverse? **No,[1] but God created man good and after His own image,[2] that is, in righteousness and true holiness, that he might rightly know God his Creator, heartily love Him, and live with Him in eternal blessedness, to praise and glorify Him.[3]** [1] Gen. 1:31. [2] Gen. 1:26–27. [3] 2 Cor. 3:18; Col. 3:10; Eph. 4:24.
7. From where, then, does this depraved nature of man come? **From the fall and disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, in Paradise,[1] whereby our nature became so corrupt that we are all conceived and born in sin.[2]** [1] Gen. 3 (The whole chapter). Rom. 5:12, 18–19. [2] Ps. 51:5; *Ps. 14:2–3.
8. But are we so depraved that we are completely incapable of any good and prone to all evil? **Yes,[1] unless we are born again by the Spirit of God.[2]** [1] Jn. 3:6; Gen. 6:5; Job 14:4; Isa. 53:6. [2] Jn. 3:5; *Gen. 8:21; *2 Cor. 3:5; *Rom. 7:18; *Jer. 17:9.
9. Does not God, then, do injustice to man by requiring of him in His Law that which he cannot perform? **No, for God so made man that he could perform it;[1] but man, through the instigation of the devil, by willful disobedience deprived himself and all his descendants of those divine gifts.[2]** [1] Eph. 4:24. [2] Rom. 5:12.
10. Will God allow such disobedience and apostasy to go unpunished? **Certainly not,[1] but He is terribly displeased with our inborn as well as our actual sins, and will punish them in just judgment in time and eternity, as He has declared, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.”[2]** [1] Heb. 9:27. [2] Deut. 27:26; Gal. 3:10; *Rom. 1:18; *Matt. 25:41.
11. But is not God also merciful? **God is indeed merciful,[1] but He is likewise just;[2] His justice therefore requires that sin which is committed against the most high majesty of God, be punished with extreme, that is, with everlasting punishment both of body and soul.** [1] Ex. 34:6–7. [2] Ex. 20:5; Ps. 5:5–6; 2 Cor. 6:14–16; *Rev. 14:11.
12. Since, then, by the righteous judgment of God we deserve temporal and eternal punishment, how may we escape this punishment and be again received into favor? **God wills that His justice be satisfied;[1] therefore, we must make full satisfaction to that justice, either by ourselves or by another.[2]** [1] Ex. 20:5; 23:7. [2] Rom. 8:3–4.
13. Can we ourselves make this satisfaction? **Certainly not; on the contrary, we daily increase our guilt.[1]** [1] Job 9:2–3; 15:15–16; Matt. 6:12; *16:26.

14. Can any mere creature make satisfaction for us? **None; for first, God will not punish any other creature for the sin which man committed;[1] and further, no mere creature can sustain the burden of God's eternal wrath against sin [2] and redeem others from it.** [1] Heb. 2:14–18. [2] Ps. 130:3.
15. What kind of mediator and redeemer, then, must we seek? **One who is a true [1] and righteous man,[2] and yet more powerful than all creatures, that is, one who is also true God.[3]** [1] 1 Cor. 15:21–22, 25–26. [2] Jer. 13:16; Isa. 53:11; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 7:15–16 [3] Isa. 7:14; Heb. 7:26.
16. Why must He be a true and righteous man?
Because the justice of God requires [1] that the same human nature which has sinned should make satisfaction for sin; but one who is himself a sinner cannot satisfy for others.[2] [1] Rom. 5:15. [2] Isa. 53:3–5.
17. Why must He also be true God?
That by the power of His Godhead He might bear in His manhood the burden of God's wrath,[1] and so obtain for [2] and restore to us righteousness and life.[3] [1] Isa. 53:8; Acts 2:24. [2] Jn. 3:16; Acts 20:28. [3] 1 Jn. 1:2.
18. But who now is that Mediator, who in one person is true God and also a true and righteous man?
Our Lord Jesus Christ,[1] who is freely given unto us for complete redemption and righteousness.[2] [1] Matt. 1:23; 1 Tim. 3:16; Lk. 2:11. [2] 1 Cor. 1:30; *Acts 4:12.
19. From where do you know this? **From the Holy Gospel, which God Himself first revealed in Paradise,[1] afterwards proclaimed by the holy patriarchs [2] and prophets, and foreshadowed by the sacrifices and other ceremonies of the law,[3] and finally fulfilled by His well-beloved Son.[4]** [1] Gen. 3:15. [2] Gen. 22:18; 49:10–11; Rom. 1:2; Heb. 1:1; Acts 3:22–24; 10:43. [3] Jn. 5:46. Heb. 10:7. [4] Rom. 10:4; Gal. 4:4–5; *Heb. 10:1.
20. Are all men, then, saved by Christ as they have perished in Adam? **No, only those who by true faith are engrafted into Him and receive all His benefits.[1]** [1] Jn. 1:12–13; 1 Cor. 15:22; Ps. 2:12; Rom. 11:20; Heb. 4:2–3; 10:39.
21. What is true faith? **True faith is not only a sure knowledge whereby I hold for truth all that God has revealed to us in His Word,[1] but also a hearty trust,[2] which the Holy Spirit [3] works in me by the Gospel,[4] that not only to others, but to me also, forgiveness of sins, everlasting righteousness, and salvation are freely given by God,[5] merely of grace, only for the sake of Christ's merits.[6]** [1] Jas. 1:6. [2] Rom. 4:16–18; 5:1. [3] 2 Cor. 4:13; Phil. 1:19, 29. [4] Rom. 1:16; 10:17. [5] Heb. 11:1–2; Rom. 1:17. [6] Eph. 2:7–9; Rom. 3:24–25; Gal. 2:16; *Acts 10:43.
22. What, then, is necessary for a Christian to believe? **All that is promised us in the Gospel,[1] which the articles of our catholic, undoubted Christian faith teach us in summary.** [1] Jn. 20:31; Matt. 28:20. *2 Pet. 1:21; *2 Tim. 3:15.
23. What are these articles? **The Apostles Creed which we sang.**
24. How are these articles divided? **Into three parts: the first is of God the Father and our creation; the second, of God the Son and our redemption; the third, of God the Holy Spirit and our sanctification.[1]** [1] 1 Pet. 1:2; *1 Jn. 5:7.
25. Since there is but one Divine Being,[1] why do you speak of three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? **Because God has so revealed Himself in His Word,[2] that these three distinct persons are the one, true, eternal God.** [1] Deut. 6:4. [2] Isa. 61:1; Ps. 110:1; Matt. 3:16–17; 28:19; 1 Jn. 5:7; *2 Cor. 13:14.
26. What do you believe when you say, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth"? **That the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who of nothing made heaven and earth with all that is in them,[1] who likewise upholds, and governs them by His eternal counsel and providence,[2] is for the sake of Christ, His Son, my God and my Father,[3] in whom I so trust as to have no doubt that He will provide me with all things necessary for body and soul;[4] and further, that whatever evil He sends upon me in this valley of tears, He will turn to my good;[5] for He is able to do it, being Almighty God,[6] and willing also, being a faithful Father.[7]** [1] Gen. 1:31; Ps. 33:6; *Col. 1:16; *Heb. 11:3. [2] Ps. 104:2–5; Matt. 10:30; Heb. 1:3; Ps. 115:3; *Acts 17:24–25. [3] Jn. 1:12; Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:5–7; Eph. 1:5; *Eph. 3:14–16; *Matt. 6:8. [4] Ps. 55:22; Matt. 6:25–26; Lk. 12:22–24; Ps. 90:1–2. [5] Rom. 8:28; *Acts 17:27–28. [6] Rom. 10:12. [7] Matt. 7:9–11; *Num. 23:19.