

# Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation: O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

*Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

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*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Exhortation

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** **who made heaven and earth.**  
**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

### Confession of Sins

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,  
**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

### Absolution

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

### Introit

*Ps. 98:1-4; antiphon: Is. 9:6*



For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given; \*  
 and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,  
 and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor, \*  
 Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.  
 Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things! \*  
 His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.  
 The LORD has made known his sal- | vation; \*  
 he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.  
 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel. \*  
 All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.  
 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth; \*  
 break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!  
 Glory be to the Father and | to the Son \* and to the Holy | Spirit;  
 as it was in the be- | ginning, \* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is | given; \*  
 and the government shall be upon his | shoulder,  
 and his name shall be called Wonderful | Counselor, \*  
 Mighty God, Everlasting Father, | Prince of Peace.

### Gloria in Excelsis: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



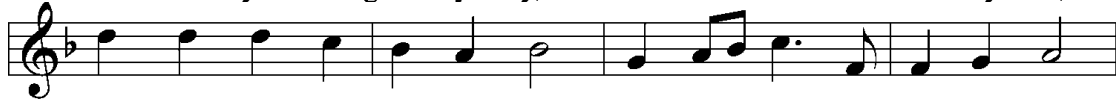
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



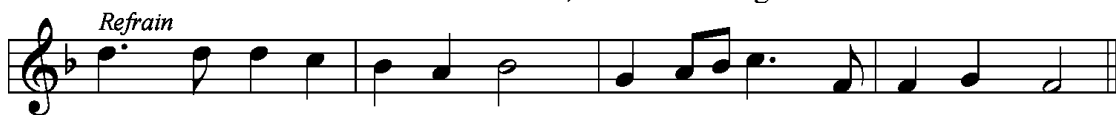
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



*Refrain*  
 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

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### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 52:7–10*

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him who brings good news,  
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,  
who publishes salvation,  
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

<sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;  
together they sing for joy;  
for eye to eye they see  
the return of the LORD to Zion.

<sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing,  
you waste places of Jerusalem,  
for the LORD has comforted his people;  
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup>The LORD has bared his holy arm  
before the eyes of all the nations,  
and all the ends of the earth shall see  
the salvation of our God.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*Hebrews 1:1–6*

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. <sup>3</sup>He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

<sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son, today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son”?

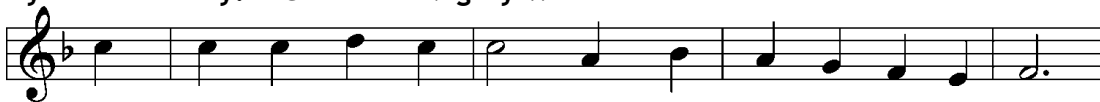
<sup>6</sup>And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God’s angels worship him.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Hymn of the Day: A Great and Mighty Wonder

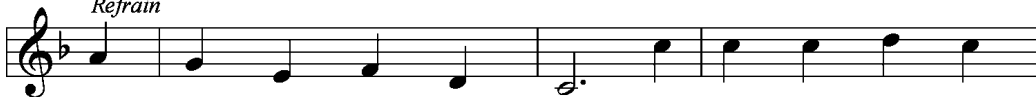


1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:  
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,  
3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,  
4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,  
5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!  
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.  
Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.  
The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.  
And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

*Refrain*



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

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## Holy Gospel

*John 1:1-18*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out,

“This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup>And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

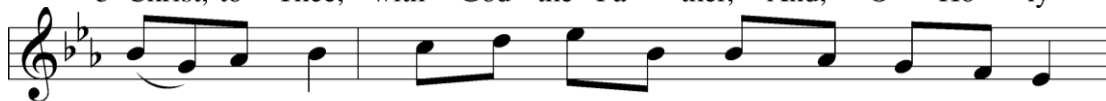
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\text{✠}$  of the world to come. Amen.

## Sermon

## Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,  
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with  
 4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His  
 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him  
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that  
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -  
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -  
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be  
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see  
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face  
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

A - men.

## Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray for the Lord's mercy upon all of us and upon all people as they have need.

*Brief silence*

**A** That the Lord would uplift our hearts to hope and joy in the celebration of our Savior's birth, and that we would manifest this joy in witness to the world, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**A** That we would show forth in our lives Him who is the Light of the world, and that the Lord would work through this witness of word and deed to enlighten those who sit in darkness by the light of His Son, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**A** That the Lord would bless His Church and sustain in faith all pastors who serve us with the Means of Grace, and that the Lord would bless all church workers and those preparing for His service in the various offices assigned to them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**A** That the Lord would grant to us wise and faithful leaders in this nation, that the Lord would guide the leaders of the nations to work for peace and justice, and that we would be good and faithful citizens who seek always to do what is good and right and true, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**A** That the Lord would preserve those who are threatened by persecution for the sake of Christ, that the Lord would grant courage to those who struggle against oppression, and that the Lord would grant His comfort and peace to those who suffer violence and danger, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**A** That the Lord would grant healing, relief, comfort and peace to all the sick, to those who suffer, to the dying and to those who grieve. That the Lord would bless doctors, nurses, all medical professionals and caregivers in their service of aid and comfort; and that all would rejoice in the good news of Christ, our Light and our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**A** That the Lord would prosper the good work of the Church in bringing aid to those in need, relief in time of disaster, and resources to those who have lost home and livelihood, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**A** That the Lord would humble our hearts to repentance and give us faith to receive with joy and thanksgiving the precious gift of His body and blood, and that the Lord would grant to His Church unity of faith and harmony of life and practice, let us pray to the Lord:

**C Lord, have mercy.**



**A** That the Lord would give peace to those troubled in mind and heart, that the Lord would deliver those afflicted by the taunts and temptations of the evil one, and that we would act with compassion and kindness to all who suffer these torments, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** That the Lord would secure in our heart the joy of this holy season, that we would not give into anger, bitterness and dispute; and that we would rejoice in the peace of the Lord that passes all understanding in our homes, workplaces and the Church, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** That the Lord would teach us generosity so that His work would not be hindered by any need, and that we would return to the Lord the tithes and offerings through which we display before the world our trust in His provision and His goodness, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**A** That we would be faithful unto death and receive from the Lord's hand the crown of righteousness for having fought the good fight and finished the race, and that we would remember with thanksgiving those who have gone before us with the sign of faith and now rest from their labors, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** We rejoice, O Lord, in the Word made flesh, in whom You have revealed Your glory and by whom You have delivered us from sin, darkness and death. Grant to us all things beneficial to us and prevent all things harmful, that we would be kept secure within the grasp of Your grace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, both now and forevermore.

**C** Amen.

## Offering

# Service of the Sacrament

## Preface

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bles - ed is He, bles - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Lord's Prayer

**P** 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.



**C** For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the  
glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.



## The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✝}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✝}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways. **C** A - men.

## Agnus Dei



**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the  
world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the  
world, grant us Thy peace. A - - men.

### Distribution

*The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive.*

### 373 See amid the Winter's Snow

1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,  
2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,  
3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,  
4 Teach, O teach us, ho - ly Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,

See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.  
He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.  
Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!  
Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.

*Refrain*

Hail, O ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!

Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

Tune and text: Public domain

### The Dismissal

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

**C** Amen.

## Post-Communion Collect

- P** Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



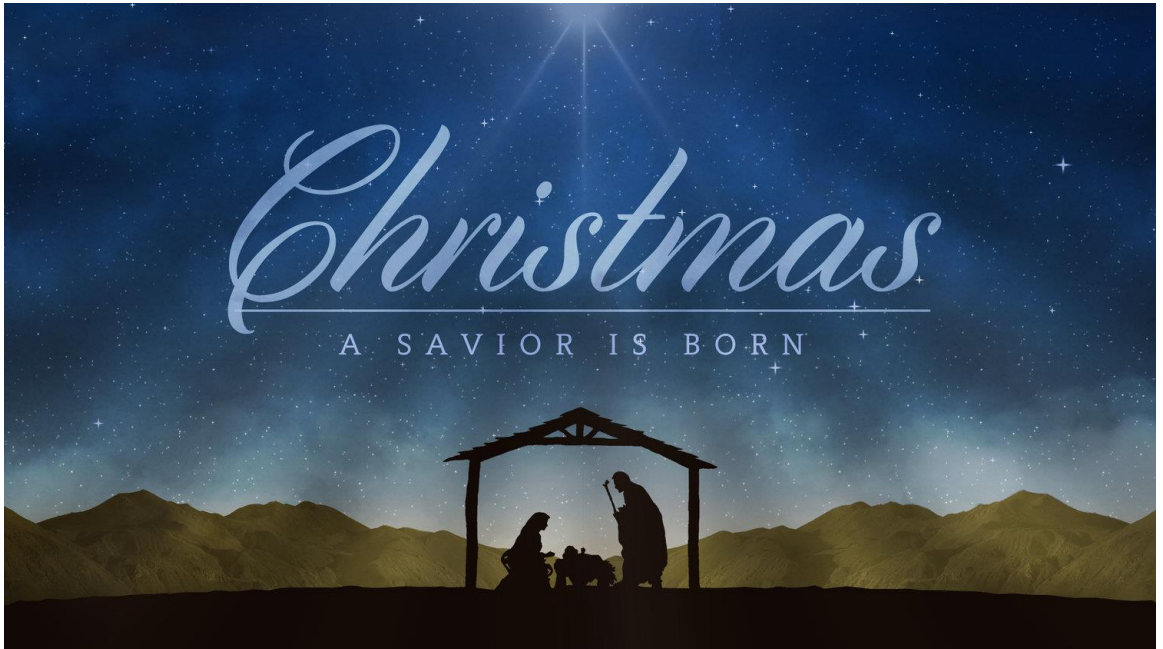
**C** A - men.

## Benedicamus

- A** Let us bless the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

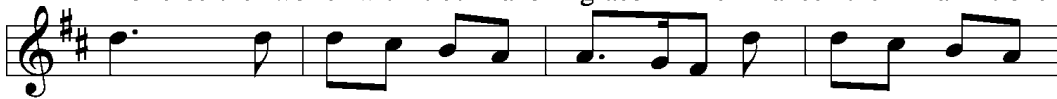
- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
**C** Amen.



## Closing Hymn: Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
joy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

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## Acknowledgments

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