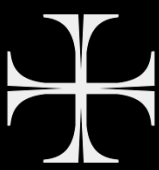


# St. Paul Clintonville

New Year's Eve — December 31, 2022



# 2022-23



## ST. PAUL CLINTONVILLE

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Clintonville, WI 54929  
www.stpaulclintonville.com

**Pastor Caleb Rothfuss**  
Cell: (989) 220-8833  
Church Office: (715) 460-3143

### Welcome Guests...

We are honored to have you with us here at St. Paul in Clintonville!

- **Guest Book:** Please sign our guest book near the doors to the worship area.
- **Restrooms:** If you need them, there are bathrooms just to the sides of the main entrance doors.
- **Children:** We are grateful and glad that they are here! If you feel the need to, you can take them to the parent's room or to the back gathering area. Let us know if there are other ways we can help you focus on the Word.
- **Changing Table:** If needed these are in the parent's room and downstairs restrooms.
- **Communion:** guests, please talk with our pastor before coming up for communion so that we can talk about what we believe about it first.

*This church is part of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. [wels.net](http://wels.net)*



*How do we as a church go through the Bible? All of it is good. All of it is important, but what readings should we focus on next week? Most churches use a lectionary. These are suggested readings for each service of the year. The lectionary is designed as a lesson plan. Each Sunday has a different, needed focus. That way when training Christians we don't get stalled too long on one topic and miss a very important different topic. The lectionary is also meant as a safeguard to ensure important doctrines are not missed.*

*The lectionary is a more technical description of what you know as the church year. Starting with Advent and going all the way to Christ the King Sunday, the church year helps form how we worship. With it we go through the life of Christ and of the Church every year.*

*Tonight, we are going to condense the focuses and purposes of all those Sundays into a few readings and a hymn. This will be a high level overview of what the church year is meant to teach in detail. Through this service, understand better the larger picture of God.*

#### Vision

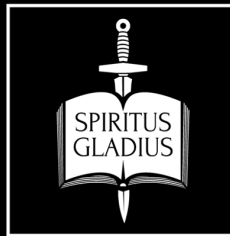
Our passion for the Gospel will make us the chosen place of worship in our community.

#### Mission

We will share the life giving and inerrant Word of God as written in the Bible.

#### Core Values

We will proclaim the law and the gospel so that all may have eternal life.



Artwork by Ian M. Welch. Copyright 2015 Ian M. Welch. All Rights Reserved. [www.paramentics.com](http://www.paramentics.com)

The Bible translation used in today's service is NIV 11.

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## Hymn 820

## O God, Our Help in Ages Past



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,  
5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, soon bears us all a - way;  
6 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.

short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.  
we fly for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the o - p'ning day.  
still be our guard while trou - bles last and our e - ter - nal home!

### Invocation *Call to Worship*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Group: Amen

### Confession and Absolution

Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**Who made heaven and earth.**

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for self-examination*

We humbly join together...

**I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven,  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed  
by my fault,  
by my own fault,  
by my own grievous fault;  
wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me,  
forgive me all my sins,  
and bring me to everlasting life.**

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness,  
and remission of all your sins.

**Amen.**

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

# Song of Praise 368

## Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year



1 Now greet the swift - ly chang - ing year with  
2 Re - mem - ber now the Son of God and  
3 This Je - sus came to end sin's war; this  
4 His love a - bun - dant far ex - ceeds the  
5 With him as Lord to lead our way in  
6 "All glo - ry be to God on high, and  
7 God, Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, hear! To



joy and pen - i - tence sin - cere. Re - joice! Re-joyce! With  
how he shed his in - fant blood. Re - joice! Re-joyce! With  
name of names for us he bore. Re - joice! Re-joyce! With  
vol - ume of a whole year's needs. Re - joice! Re-joyce! With

want and in pros - per - i - ty, what need we fear in  
peace on earth!" the an - gels cry. Re - joice! Re-joyce! With  
all our pleas in - cline your ear; up - on our lives rich



thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.  
thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.  
thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.  
thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.  
earth or space in this new year of grace?  
thanks em - brace an - oth - er year of grace.  
bless - ing trace in this new year of grace.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Eternal Father, before whom all generations rise and fall, teach us to think earnestly on the brevity of our lives and the immensity of your goodness. Help us to enter the new year trusting in the name of your Son and walking in the way of his peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

## Advent *the Messiah is coming*

*The first season of the church year is the Advent season. Advent includes the four Sundays before Christmas Day. The word Advent means “coming.” As we anticipate the celebration of Jesus’ first coming into this world at His birth, we also prepare for His second coming at the end of time .*

## Reading *Luke 1:31-33*

<sup>31</sup> Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end.

## Hymn 302

## Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a -



near! Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a  
King! Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread  
King! Your King, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its  
bove. His rule is peace and free - dom and



lev - el road ap - pear! Then greet the King of  
gar - ments! Shout and sing! God's prom - ise will not  
trib - ute too should bring. All lands, bow down be -  
jus - tice, truth, and love. So let your praise be



glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
fore him! All na - tions, now a - dore him!  
sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain  
Ho-san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's Word!

## Christmas *God among us*

*Christmas is both a day and a season. During the twelve days of Christmas (December 25 through January 5), we continue our celebration of the incarnation of Jesus Christ, the Son of God who was born of the Virgin Mary to be our brother and our Savior.*

### Reading *Luke 2:7-11,19*

<sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup> There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

### Hymn 330

### Peace Came to Earth



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho-sen night when an - gels  
2 And who could be the same for hav-ing held the in - fant  
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen, in flesh and  
4 How else could I have known you, O my God! How else could



clove the sky with song and light and God em - bod - ied  
in their arms and lat - er felt the wound - ed hands and  
blood you bore our griefs and pain, in bread and wine you  
I have loved you, O my God! How else could I em -



love and sheathed his might— Who could but gasp: Im-man-u - el!  
side, all doubts dis-pelled— Who could but sigh: Im-man-u - el!  
vis - it us a - gain— Who could but see: Im-man-u - el!  
brace you, O my God! Who could but pray: Im-man-u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

## **Epiphany** *Jesus reveals Himself as God*

*The word Epiphany means “to reveal.” The season begins on Epiphany Day (January 6), when we remember how the star revealed Jesus as the Savior to the Magi from the East (Matthew 2:1-12). The season extends from January 6 through the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. During the Epiphany season, our worship focuses on the many ways that Jesus revealed himself as our Savior, especially in his ministry, miracles, and message. We also watch and see His church grow as He calls the disciples and shows the people signs.*

### **Reading** *John 1:43-51*

<sup>43</sup>The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, “Follow me.”

<sup>44</sup>Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. <sup>45</sup>Philip found Nathanael and told him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.”

<sup>46</sup>“Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Nathanael asked.

“Come and see,” said Philip.

<sup>47</sup>When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, “Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”

<sup>48</sup>“How do you know me?” Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, “I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you.”

<sup>49</sup>Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

<sup>50</sup>Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” <sup>51</sup>He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”

### **Reading** *Luke 4:38-44*

<sup>38</sup>Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. <sup>39</sup>So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.

<sup>40</sup>At sunset, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. <sup>41</sup>Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Messiah.

<sup>42</sup> At daybreak, Jesus went out to a solitary place. The people were looking for him and when they came to where he was, they tried to keep him from leaving them. <sup>43</sup> But he said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." <sup>44</sup> And he kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

## **Hymn 386**

## Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

- 1 Songs of thankfulness and praise,  
Jesus, Lord, to you we raise,  
manifested by the star  
to the Magi from afar,  
branch of royal David's stem,  
in your birth at Bethlehem.  
Anthems be to you addressed,  
God in man made manifest.**
- 2 Manifest at Jordan's stream,  
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme,  
and at Cana, wedding guest,  
in your Godhead manifest;  
manifest in pow'r divine,  
changing water into wine.  
Anthems be to you addressed,  
God in man made manifest.**
- 3 Manifest in making whole  
palsied limbs and fainting soul;  
manifest in valiant fight,  
quelling all the devil's might;  
manifest in gracious will,  
ever bringing good from ill.  
Anthems be to you addressed,  
God in man made manifest.**
- 4 Sun and moon shall darkened be,  
stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee.  
Christ will then like lightning shine;  
all will see his glorious sign.  
All will then the trumpet hear,  
all will see the judge appear.  
You by all will be confessed,  
God in man made manifest.**



5 **Grant us grace to see you, Lord,  
mirrored in your holy Word.  
May our lives and all we do  
imitate and honor you  
that we all like you may be  
at your great epiphany  
and may praise you, ever blest,  
God in man made manifest.**

### **Lent** *God calls us to repent*

*The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and includes the six and a half weeks prior to Easter Sunday. Lent focuses our attention on the most important events and truths of the Christian faith. We hear our Lord's call to repent of our sin, and we remember Jesus' sufferings and death that won our redemption from sin.*

### **Reading** *Luke 15:11-32*

<sup>11</sup> Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup> "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' <sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup> "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

<sup>22</sup> “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup> ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

<sup>28</sup> “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

<sup>31</sup> “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

## **Reading** *Matthew 27:27-54*

<sup>27</sup> Then the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. <sup>28</sup> They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, <sup>29</sup> and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. “Hail, king of the Jews!” they said. <sup>30</sup> They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. <sup>31</sup> After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

<sup>32</sup> As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. <sup>33</sup> They came to a place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). <sup>34</sup> There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. <sup>35</sup> When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. <sup>36</sup> And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. <sup>37</sup> Above his head they placed the written charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

<sup>38</sup> Two rebels were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>39</sup> Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!” <sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. <sup>42</sup> “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! He’s the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” <sup>44</sup> In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

<sup>45</sup> From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. <sup>46</sup> About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

<sup>47</sup> When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.”

<sup>48</sup> Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. <sup>49</sup> The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”

<sup>50</sup> And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

<sup>51</sup> At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook, the rocks split <sup>52</sup> and the tombs broke open. The bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. <sup>53</sup> They came out of the tombs after Jesus’ resurrection and went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

<sup>54</sup> When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, “Surely he was the Son of God!”

Hymn 568

His Robes for Mine



1 His robes for mine: O won - der - ful ex - change!  
 2 His robes for mine: what cause have I for dread?  
 3 His robes for mine: God's jus - tice is ap - peased.  
 4 His robes for mine: such an - guish none can know.



Clothed in my sin, Christ suf - fered 'neath God's rage.  
 God's daunt - ing law Christ mas - tered in my stead.  
 Je - sus is crushed, and thus the Fa - ther's pleased.  
 Christ, God's be - loved, con - demned as though his foe.



Draped in his right - eous - ness, I'm jus - ti - fied.  
 Fault - less I stand with right - eous works not mine,  
 Christ drank God's wrath on sin, then cried, "'Tis done!"  
 He, as though I, ac - cursed and left a - lone;



In Christ I live, for in my place he died.  
 saved by my Lord's vi - car - ious death and life.  
 Sin's wage is paid, pro - pi - ti - a - tion won.  
 I, as though he, em - braced and wel - comed home!



I cling to Christ, and mar - vel at the cost:



Je - sus for - sak - en, God es - tranged from God.



Bought by such love, my life is not my own.



My praise— my all— shall be for Christ a - lone.

## **Easter** *Jesus is truly God*

*Our celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead extends through the seven week-long Easter season. The earlier weeks of the Easter season focus on Jesus' resurrection appearances. The later weeks of the Easter season focus on the comforting spiritual truths that result from Jesus' resurrection. Near the end of the Easter season, we also celebrate our Lord's Ascension into heaven forty days after his resurrection.*

### **Reading** *Luke 24:1-35*

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup>They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup>While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. <sup>5</sup>In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup>He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: <sup>7</sup>"The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" <sup>8</sup>Then they remembered his words.

<sup>9</sup>When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. <sup>10</sup>It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup>But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. <sup>12</sup>Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

<sup>13</sup>Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup>As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup>but they were kept from recognizing him.

<sup>17</sup>He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup>One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

<sup>19</sup>"What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup>The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified

him; <sup>21</sup> but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. <sup>22</sup> In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup> but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

<sup>25</sup> He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup> As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

<sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

<sup>33</sup> They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup> and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." <sup>35</sup> Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Hymn 419

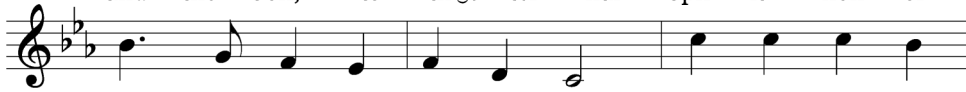
Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle



1 Sing, my tongue, the glo - rious bat - tle, waged in blood on  
 2 Tell how, when at length the full - ness of th'ap - point - ed  
 3 Thus, with thir - ty years ac - com - plished, he went forth from  
 4 Faith - ful cross, true sign of tri - umph, be for all the  
 5 Un - to God be praise and glo - ry; to the Fa - ther



Cal - va - ry; o'er the cross, tri - um - phant tro - phy,  
 time was come, he, the Word, was born of wom - an,  
 Naz - a - reth, des - tined, ded - i - cat - ed, will - ing,  
 no - blest tree; none in fo - liage, none in blos - som,  
 and the Son, to th'e - ter - nal Spir - it hon - or



tell who strug - gled val - iant - ly; tell how earth's Re -  
 left for us his Fa - ther's home, blazed the path of  
 did his work and met his death; like a lamb he  
 none in fruit your e - qual be, sym - bol of the  
 now and ev - er - more be done— praise and glo - ry



deem - er con - quered— vic - tim gain - ing vic - to - ry.  
 true o - be - dience, shone as light a - midst the gloom.  
 hum - bly yield - ed on the cross his dy - ing breath.  
 world's re - demp - tion, for your bur - den makes us free.  
 in the high - est while the time - less a - ges run.

## **Pentecost** *God's Church grows*

*Pentecost Day (Acts 2:1-41) is celebrated seven weeks after Easter and marks the birth of the Christian Church. The Sundays after Pentecost emphasize the life of the Church and the life of the Christian in light of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

## **Reading** *Hebrews 11:32-12:3*

<sup>32</sup>And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup>who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup>quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. <sup>35</sup>Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. <sup>36</sup>Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup>They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— <sup>38</sup>the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup>These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, <sup>40</sup>since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

<sup>12:1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.



# Hymn 829

# Take Heart



1 Take heart, O ser-vants of the Lord, a - mid the cloud - y  
 2 Serve not the dark de - sires with - in, nor wick - ed foes, nor  
 3 We walk by faith and not by sight while liv - ing in this



jour - ney; though shad - ows seem to shade his Word, they  
 tempt - ers; their sub - tle lies would lure us in, but  
 dark - ness, but grief will change in - to de - light when



can - not hide his mer - cy. When prov - i - dence is  
 Christ our King will con - quer. We firm - ly stand in  
 Christ re - turns in bright - ness. Let us take heart un -



man - i - fest in tem - pests of af - flic - tion, be -  
 Je - sus' might a - gainst en - tic - ing e - vil: he  
 til we see the ris - en Lamb of suf - f'ring; then



hind the storm is Je - sus Christ, the sun of our sal - va - tion.  
 dress - es us in ra - diant light— the ar - mor of his gos - pel.  
 we be - fore his throne will be like him, for - ev - er shin - ing!

## **Prayer of the Church** *Litany I*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you love your whole creation and forget none of your creatures. We bring you our supplications for all your children, for all those we love and all those committed to your care:

**We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

For all who have blessed us with kindness, led us with patience, and restored and refreshed us by their sympathy and help:

**We implore you to hear us, good Lord.**

For all who have wished or done us ill, that you would turn their hearts to penitence and ours to blessing:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all prisoners and captives and all who suffer from oppression, that you would lead them to know the perfect freedom of your Son's forgiveness, relieve their suffering, and move us to imitate you by assisting them with works of mercy and compassion:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who bear the cross of suffering, who are sick in body or in mind:

**Be merciful and spare them, good Lord.**

For all who are troubled by the suffering or sin of those they love:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who have experienced worldly loss, that in the midst of darkness and confusion they may find their peace in you:

**We implore you to hear us, O God.**

For all who are absorbed in their own grief, that they may be raised to share the sorrows of their brothers and sisters and to know and appreciate the fellowship of those who bear Christ's cross:

**We implore you to hear us, O God.**

For all who are suffering because of their faithfulness to conviction and duty, that in sacrifice they might find strength and joy; and that you, who see in secret, may uphold them by your grace, so they may at last come to an open reward:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who are undergoing temptations of the flesh or who imagine evil in their hearts, that you would enable them to overcome and obtain the victory through Christ:

**Be merciful and spare them, good Lord.**

For all who are lonely and sad in the midst of the joys of others, that they may know you as their Father, Friend, and Comforter:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the infirm, the aged, and all who are approaching death, that they may find their strength in you and obtain a blessed end:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all for whom we have forgotten to pray but who are dear to you:

**Assist them according to their needs, and bring them to your heavenly kingdom, through Christ our Lord.**

O God our Father, hear our intercessions, answer them according to your will, and make us the channels of your infinite pity and helpfulness.

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**For thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Closing Prayer**

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Blessing *the Benediction***

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**Amen.**



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
 3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,  
 4 Thou on my head in ear - ly youth didst smile,  
 5 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
 6 I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;  
 7 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
 but kind and good, with heal - ing in thy wings,  
 and though re - bel - lious and per - verse mean - while,  
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
 ills have no weight and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
 shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
 tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea;  
 thou hast not left me oft as I left thee;

Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
 Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.  
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
 come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bide with me.  
 on to the close, O Lord, a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me!  
 I tri - umph still if thou a - bide with me.  
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me!