

Confession and Absolution

733 O God Our Help in Ages Past

sts. 1–6

- 1 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:
- 2 Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.
- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Text: Public domain

Stand

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

LSB 184

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.

Kneel/Stand

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

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

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*LSB 185*

- 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.**

*Stand***Service of the Word****Introit***Psalm 80:1, 8a, 9b, 7; antiphon: v. 3*

- P** Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!
- C** **Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.**
- P** You brought a vine out of Egypt; it took deep root and filled the land.
- C** **Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!**
- P** Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Gloria Patri*LSB 186*

- C** **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.**

Kyrie*LSB 186*

- C** **Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And with thy spirit.**
- P** Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** **Amen.**

*Sit***Old Testament Reading***Isaiah 40:1–11*

- ¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
- ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.
- ³A voice cries:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
- ⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,

and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶A voice says, “Cry!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades

when the breath of the LORD blows on it;

surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades,

but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good news;

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good news;

lift it up, fear not;

say to the cities of Judah,

“Behold your God!”

¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;

behold, his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms;

he will carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead those that are with young.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

2 Peter 3:8–14

⁸But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1–8

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

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

³the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, 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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

719 I Leave All Things to God’s Direction

1 I leave all things to God’s direction;
He loves me both in joy and woe.

- His will is good, sure His affection;
 His tender love is true, I know.
 My fortress and my rock is He:
 What pleases God, that pleases me.
- 2 God knows what must be done to save me;
 His love for me will never cease.
 Upon His hands He did engrave me
 With purest gold of loving grace.
 His will supreme must ever be:
 What pleases God, that pleases me.
- 3 My God desires the soul's salvation;
 My soul He, too, desires to save.
 Therefore with Christian resignation
 All earthly troubles I will brave.
 His will be done eternally:
 What pleases God, that pleases me.
- 4 My God has all things in His keeping;
 He is the ever faithful friend.
 He gives me laughter after weeping,
 And all His ways in blessings end.
 His love endures eternally:
 What pleases God, that pleases me.

Text: Salomo Franck, 1659–1725; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
 Text: Public domain

Sermon

Grace, Mercy, and Peace to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

We've all heard the saying "You can't see the forest for the trees". For some, it is chronic problem. We lose track of how we got into the situation. We dive so deep into the details, the weeds, that we lose track of what took us into the weeds to begin with. I am very prone to analysis paralysis. I'm task and detail oriented. The drive to finish a task can lead me into trouble when a problem, a challenge, arises. I can get stuck on the problem and can't figure it out. I'll often churn on the problem, taking much more time than I should. And often, if I step back from the problem, or sometimes just get distracted, the answer becomes obvious. For example, I helped a friend remove a starter from his car. He had been under there for hours, unable to muscle that last, pinched, bolt out. The harder he tried, the more frustrated he became. His language got worse and worse. Tools began to fly. There was a simple solution. Lift the back of the starter to relieve the pressure on the bolt and viola!. But he was too close to the problem. He couldn't see what was going on.

In 2 Peter 3, scoffers, skeptics, were stirring up trouble. They saw the earth as permanent and indestructible. They were probably doing quite well in the world, so to speak, enjoying heaven on earth. So, the concept of life after death didn't make sense to them. They couldn't see the end of the world happening.

As we have heard from Ecclesiastes over the past couple of weeks "There is nothing new under the sun." Without God's Word, our corrupted thinking causes us to believe that sun will always rise again. But our human logic is flawed, corrupted by sin.

Today, many only believe what they can see and understand. Mankind believes that a rational, scientific understanding of the creation is the way things are. Scientists have developed the theory of Evolution. The Evolutionists can't wrap their heads around a 6-day creation and an all-powerful God that could and did create all things. They point to things that appear to be much older than 6,000 years. But God didn't have to create

everything immature. For example, God created Adam as a full-grown man, not as an infant. When God created Adam, there were plants mature enough to feed Adam. So, could God create something that appears to be millions of years old when it is only 6,000 years old? Absolutely. Sounds like the chicken came first, eh?

God has acted in history as recorded in the Bible. God had Noah build the ark before God flooded the earth, to save a faithful remnant. God called Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to be His own. God rescued Israel from Egypt. God gave Israel the Ten Commandments. But before Moses could come down Mount Sinai with the Ten Commandments, Israel began to worship a Golden Calf. Despite Israel's sins, God showed His steadfast love and brought Israel into the promised land. Israel again and again turned their back on God. As we heard on Wednesday evening, the Northern Kingdom was carried into exile by the Assyrians and would never again be its own sovereign nation. The Southern Kingdom would be carried into Babylon and after 70 years, a faithful remnant would return to set the stage for Jesus to come. Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah, was rejected by the Jews and died on a Roman cross for the sins of the whole world. Jesus died on the cross and rose on Easter from the dead, conquering sin, death, and the devil. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, Jesus gave His Church the Great Commission ¹⁸.... 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[b] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'" (Matthew 28:18b-20).

God had a plan from before creation. God created us to save us. God knew that sin would corrupt His perfect creation and that Jesus would die on the cross to pay for the sins of all mankind. As His plan was to save, God is patient, not wanting any to perish. God wants to save all mankind but knows that some will reject Him. And even those who reject God, God continues to call to repentance and into relationship with Him.

We never know when our last breath will be. Will I go to sleep and never wake up? Certainly, many have died that way. Will my life be ended by a car accident? Will I have a heart attack? Or will I languish in a nursing home of a terrible disease that will ultimately end my life?

This life is temporary and fleeting. We may enjoy a life that the world envies and be miserable. We may have everything going for us and be troubled by doubt and anxiety. We may have lost sight of the Gracious God who controls everything and have replaced Him with something earthly. Our relationship with God and with others may be strained or broken. In response to God's great love, grace, and mercy, we are called to be ready when the Lord comes again. We are to use the Law, the Ten Commandments, as a guide. We are to live as God created us to live, serving God and one another. Hebrews 12:1-2 "12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." Being a faithful child of God and walking in God's ways is challenging and impossible. I can't be perfect as my heavenly Father is perfect. You can't be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect. But we can repent by the power of the Holy Spirit, and having confessed our sins, be forgiven.

Despite your sin, God loves you. God is patient with you, wanting you to come to the knowledge of the truth and be set free. God wants you in a loving relationship with Him and those around you. God sent Jesus into this broken, sinful world, to take your sins to the Cross and pay the full atonement price. Jesus died so that you will not face God's wrath for your sins. Jesus has already faced the punishment for your sins and has set you free. You are no longer a slave to sin, but a slave to righteousness. God pours out His blessings on you, in this world and in eternity. And so, it is for you and I that God delays the end of the age. God truly wants you in His Kingdom that has no end.

It is easy to get so involved in this world that we can't see eternity that lies before us. We sometimes can't see eternity and its great rewards because of this world. Yet, Jesus died for you. Your eternal life is assured. Only

you can separate yourself from the love of God. And so, be prepared for God call you into His Kingdom when He reclaims His corrupted creation. And then you will be with God for all eternity. Amen.

Votum

- P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
C Amen.

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192

- C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
 Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
 Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Sit

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved! As You led Joseph like a flock, so now by Your Son lead us into straight paths. Bring us out of the bondage of our sins, and plant us securely in Your eternal promises. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, You sent John the Baptist to herald the coming Messiah and proclaim a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. In these latter days, You send pastors to proclaim the same repentance for the forgiveness of sins, and through them lead Your people to trust in Your salvation. Look with kindness upon all pastors, that they may be diligent and faithful heralds of Your beloved Son. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all comfort, Your Word alone endures forever. The nations of the world come and go before You, even kings and rulers are like grass before Your breath. Preserve us from placing our trust in princes and mortal men. Give us rulers who will rule after Your good pleasure, keeping order and protecting life, that we may live peaceably in godly quietness and honesty. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, to our prayers [*especially for _____*]. Give healing, courage and perseverance to all who cry to You, that they may find comfort in Your enduring Word and the certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life with Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, we know that You are not slow in keeping Your promises. We thank You for Your patience. Do not take Your Spirit from us when we stray from Your commandments, but convict us of our sin and draw us back to You in repentance. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, You invite us again to Your table to receive the medicine of immortality in the body and blood of Christ, Your Son. May we receive this Sacrament rightly, that with faith strengthened and sins forgiven our lives may be lived in holiness and godliness. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, as we in the Church on earth wait for the coming of Your Son, we remember all the saints who have gone before us and now rest in Your presence. Keep us safe in Your arms until You gather Your people together in the new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else You know that we need, grant us, Father, for the sake of Him who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194

- P** The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Full)

P 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

LSB 195

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

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 glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

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 ✠ 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 ✠ 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

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.
Amen.

Sit

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, saying:

Left Column

LSB 199

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.

In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:

The Dismissal

LSB 199

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.**596 All Christians Who Have Been Baptized**

- 1 All Christians who have been baptized,
Who know the God of heaven,
And in whose daily life is prized
The name of Christ once given:
Consider now what God has done,
The gifts He gives to ev'ryone
Baptized into Christ Jesus!
- 2 You were before your day of birth,
Indeed, from your conception,
Condemned and lost with all the earth,
None good, without exception.
For like your parents' flesh and blood,
Turned inward from the highest good,
You constantly denied Him.
- 3 But all of that was washed away—
Immersed and drowned forever.
The water of your Baptism day
Restored again whatever
Old Adam and his sin destroyed
And all our sinful selves employed
According to our nature.
- 4 In Baptism we now put on Christ—
Our shame is fully covered
With all that He once sacrificed
And freely for us suffered.
For here the flood of His own blood
Now makes us holy, right, and good
Before our heav'nly Father.
- 5 O Christian, firmly hold this gift
And give God thanks forever!
It gives the power to uplift
In all that you endeavor.
When nothing else revives your soul,
Your Baptism stands and makes you whole
And then in death completes you.
- 6 So use it well! You are made new—
In Christ a new creation!
As faithful Christians, live and do
Within your own vocation,
Until that day when you possess

His glorious robe of righteousness
Bestowed on you forever!

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. Jon D. Vieker, 1961

Text: © 2004 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001274

820 My Soul, Now Praise Your Maker

- 1 My soul, now praise your Maker!
Let all within me bless His name
Who makes you full partaker
Of mercies more than you dare claim.
Forget Him not whose meekness
Still bears with all your sin,
Who heals your ev'ry weakness,
Renews your life within;
Whose grace and care are endless
And saved you through the past;
Who leaves no sufferer friendless
But rights the wronged at last.
- 2 He offers all His treasure
Of justice, truth, and righteousness,
His love beyond all measure,
His yearning pity o'er distress;
Nor treats us as we merit
But sets His anger by.
The poor and contrite spirit
Finds His compassion nigh;
And high as heav'n above us,
As dawn from close of day,
So far, since He has loved us,
He puts our sins away.
- 3 For as a tender father
Has pity on his children here,
God in His arms will gather
All who are His in childlike fear.
He knows how frail our powers,
Who but from dust are made.
We flourish like the flowers,
And even so we fade;
The wind but through them passes,
And all their bloom is o'er.
We wither like the grasses;
Our place knows us no more.
- 4 His grace remains forever,
And children's children yet shall prove
That God forsakes them never
Who in true fear shall seek His love.
In heav'n is fixed His dwelling,
His rule is over all;
O hosts with might excelling,
With praise before Him fall.
Praise Him forever reigning,
All you who hear His Word—

Our life and all sustaining.

My soul, O praise the Lord!

Text: Johann Gramann, 1487–1541; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
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.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth forever.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Salutation

LSB 201

P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

A Bless we the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
C Amen, amen, amen.

366 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats
O’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its babel sounds
The blessèd angels sing.

- 3 All you, beneath your heavy load,
 By care and guilt bent low,
 Who toil along a dreary way
 With painful steps and slow:
 Look up, for golden is the hour,
 Come swiftly on the wing,
 The Prince was born to bring you peace;
 Of Him the angels sing.
- 4 For lo, the days have come to pass
 By prophets seen of old,
 When down into the circling years
 Came Christ as was foretold.
 His word of peace shall to the earth
 God's ancient promise bring,
 And all who take this gift will hear
 The song the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–76, alt.

Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV[®] Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version[®]), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.