

**The Third Sunday of Advent**  
**A Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols**  
**St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY**  
**December 15 2024 Year C**  
**10:30 AM**

**Prelude** Advent Meditations *St. John's Ringers* arr. Douglas Wagner (b. 1952)

**\*Processional Hymn** Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates! (*Truro*) **Hymnal #436**

**\*Collect/Lighting of Advent Candle**

God be with you.

*And also with you.*

Let us pray.

*Silence.*

Stir up your power, O Lord,

*And with great might come among us.*

Merciful Lord, we are sorely hindered by our sins;

*But we are saved by your grace and your light.*

*Three candles are lit on the Advent wreath.*

Let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us, O God,  
*through Jesus Christ our Lord;*

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory,  
*now and for ever. Amen.*

**\*The Bidding Prayer**

The Rev. Kit Tobin

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to gather all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

*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, for ever and ever.*

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. *Amen.*

## The First Lesson

Genesis 3:1–15

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’”

But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.

Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

**Carol** Adam Lay Ybounden

Boris Ord (1897–1961)

Adam lay ybounden Bounden in a bond; Four thousand winter Thought he not too long  
And all was for an apple An apple that he took As clerkes finden Written in their book  
Ne had the apple taken been The apple taken been Ne had never our lady A-been heavené queen  
Blessed be the time That apple taken was Therefore we moun singen Deo gracias!

## The Second Lesson

Isaiah 7 and 11:6–9

Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it not enough for you to try the patience of mortals? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.”

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

**Anthem** Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates

William Mathias (1934–92)

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, And be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors, And the king of glory shall come in.  
Who is this king of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, The Lord mighty in battle.

**Carol** (*seated*) Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming

Hymnal #81

## The Third Lesson

Isaiah 35

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**Carol** There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

Hymnal #75

## The Fourth Lesson

Jeremiah 31:31–34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord.

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

**Carol** E'en So, Lord Jesus

Paul Manz (1919–2009)

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed his blood,  
That we might saved be. Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God who was, and is, and is to come  
Sing Holy, Holy Lord. Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell within, rejoice on earth, ye saints below,  
For Christ is coming soon. E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come and night shall be no more.  
They need no light nor lamp nor sun for Christ will be their All!

## The Fifth Lesson

Isaiah 40:1–5, 9–11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every 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. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

**Anthem** And the Glory of the Lord (*Messiah*) George Friedrich Handel (1685–1759)  
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together;  
For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

**The Sixth Lesson**

**Baruch 4:36–37, 5:1–4a**

Look toward the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God! Behold, your sons are coming, whom you sent away; they are coming, gathered from east and west, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting. For God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For your name will for ever be called by God, “Peace of righteousness and glory of godliness.”

**Carol** People, Look East Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965)

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able,  
Trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.  
Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there: Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
That in course the flower may flourish. People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.  
Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen  
God for fledging time has chosen. People, look east and sing today: Love, the bird, is on the way.  
Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as sun and moon together. People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

**Carol** Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

**Hymnal #67**

**The Seventh Lesson**

**Zephaniah 3:14–18**

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

**Anthem** Zion Hears the Watchmen’s Voices Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Zion hears the watchmen’s voices, With gladness all her heart rejoices, She eager wakes to greet the day.  
See, her Lord from heav’n descending With grace and truth and power unending, Her day-star dawns with brightest ray.  
O come, thou blessèd One, Lord Jesu, God’s own Son. Hosianna! We follow there Thy feast to share,  
And taste the joys beyond compare.  
Glory now to God we render, Who reigns on high in heavenly splendour; Let every tongue in praise unite.  
Lo, we enter heaven’s high portal To join the song of saints immortal With angels round Thy Throne of Light.  
No mortal joy can e’er with heaven’s true bliss compare; Alleluia! Rejoice below, i-o, i-o,  
Sing out In dulci jubilo!

**The Eighth Lesson**

**Luke 1:26–38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**Carol** The Angel Gabriel

**Hymnal #265**

## **Announcements & Welcome**

### **Offertory Sentence**

**Offertory** In Dulci Jubilo

Marcel Dupré (1886–1971)

**\*Presentation Hymn** Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel (*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*) **Hymnal #56 v. 6**

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by the drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

### **\*The Great Thanksgiving**

Expanded Language Prayer B

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you

**Celebrant:** Lift up your hearts

**People:** We lift them to the Lord

**Celebrant:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**Celebrant:** *continuing:* Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, holy, holy** (*Sanctus*)

**Hymnal #S-114**

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all, in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

For in these last days, you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death, into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, He broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, He gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember Christ's death,**

**We proclaim Christ's resurrection,**

**We await Christ's coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the New Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

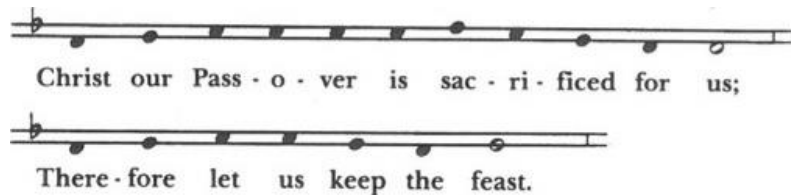
In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. John, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen**

### The Lord's Prayer

#### Fraction Anthem

Hymnal #S-153



Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;  
There - fore let us keep the feast.

### The Communion of the People

*All people are invited to the Lord's Table.  
Eucharist will be distributed in the center aisle. Please come forward in a single line to receive.  
You may either intinct your wafer or you may drink from the common chalice after consuming the wafer.  
Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

**Communion Music** Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers (*Llangloffan*)

**Hymnal #68**

### Post Communion

*Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

### Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

\* **Recessional Hymn** Blest Be the King Whose Coming (*Valet will ich dir geben*)

**Hymnal #74**

**Postlude** Valet will ich dir geben

J. S. Bach

**Liturgical Ministers:** Cora Yao, Amber Massa

**Virtual Vergers** Mike Roman, Amber Massa

Continue to pray for the special needs and concerns of this congregation, and especially for:

Joan	Linda	Edith	Chris	Jack	Jan	Isabella	Olivia
Charles	Jim	Kathryn	Carole	Julianne	Nick	Shawn	Roger
Wes	Gerald	Sarah	Amelia	Jack	Ann	Rebekah	Sara
Virginia	Cece	Avery	Susan	Lisa	David	Libby	Denis
Shirley	Lorraine	Jane	Mary Beth	Ira	Cheryl	Joanne	Roxanne

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:  
Beverly Beer, Susan Shell, Jane K. Tissot

*This morning we welcome The Rev. Kit Tobin as our celebrant and guest preacher.*

*Many thanks to all the members of our St. John's Choir for their contribution to this service.*

**St. John's extends a warm welcome to visitors!**

**May you experience the Lord's presence during worship. Please fill out a visitor card and place it in the offering plate and stay for coffee in the parish hall after the service.**

**LARGE PRINT EDITIONS OF THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX.**

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from  
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**2025 PLEDGE ENVELOPES**, for those who use them, are on the table in the back of the nave. They are sorted alphabetically by last name. Please pick up your envelopes and take them home with you at your earliest convenience. If you do not find your envelopes, or have never had envelopes and wish to begin using them, please contact the parish office: (607) 273-6532 or office@stjohnsithaca.org.

**Greening of the Church.** Join us after the 10:30 service in the church sanctuary The Altar Guild supplies the greens, fir trees, bows and candles. Everyone is welcome! You don't have to be an interior designer to help; every pair of hands is welcome. Children are welcome to attend and help with their families. We'll set up the sanctuary trees too. It will be more fun if you come, and it's a great way to meet other parishioners!

***Come join the fun and be amazed at how beautiful our sanctuary looks when we are done!***

**CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS**

Anyone wishing to donate toward the Christmas flowers and wreaths that adorn the nave during Christmas may do so by placing a check in the offering plate, noted Christmas Flowers; or you can mail a check to the church. If you wish the flowers to be in memory of a loved one, please note that name below, tear off and return this slip with your check. **All names must be received by Wednesday, December 18th at the latest to insure inclusion in the bulletin.**

**Christmas flowers**

Donated by: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_



St. John's Church  
210 North Cayuga Street  
Ithaca, NY  
(607)-273-6532

[www.stjohnsithaca.org](http://www.stjohnsithaca.org)

Office email: [office@stjohnsithaca.org](mailto:office@stjohnsithaca.org)

"Like" us on facebook @ Saint John's Episcopal Church

**Office Hours** Monday thru Thursday 10–3

### **Rector**

Beverly Way, Sr. Warden  
Ilze Lemesis, Parish Administrator  
Timothy E. Smith, Director of Music/Organist

Pamela Talbott, Jr. Warden  
Chuck Merrill, Weekday Sexton

If you need pastoral assistance, please call or text the Senior Warden at 607-232-4465.

If you would like to contribute to our ministries, you may make a secure donation at <https://stjohnsithaca.org/donate/>. Thank you!

Sign up for our weekly newsletter [The Fledgling](#) by contacting the church office.

**Forward Day by Day** for **November, December, and January** is available on the table in the rear of the church.

**Please Join Us** for Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall following the service.

**Candles and Flowers:** If you wish to give candles or Sunday flowers in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a special occasion, please call the church office (607-273-6532).

**Giving Tree:** St John's supports local people during the holiday season through our Giving Tree ministry. This year we are partnering with GIAC (Greater Ithaca Activities Center) and Ithaca Welcomes Refugees. Gift needs and instructions are on the tags. Take as many tags as you wish! Return the gifts to the church or to the office by **Tuesday Dec. 17**. Thank you for supporting this annual St John's tradition!

### **Christmas Schedule:**

**Christmas Eve** Tuesday, December 24

4 pm Holy Communion with Carols and Organ; blessing of the crèche

10 pm Festive Choral Eucharist

**Christmas Day** Wednesday, December 25

10 am Holy Eucharist with Hymns



**The Third Sunday of Advent**  
**A Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols**  
December 15 2024 Year C  
**Hymns**

**Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Might Gates! (*Truro*)**  
**Hymnal #436**

1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;  
behold, the King of glory waits!  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
the Savior of the world is here.

2 O blest the land, the city blest,  
where Christ the ruler is confessed!  
O happy hearts and happy homes  
to whom this King of triumph comes!

3 Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
make it a temple, set apart  
from earthly use for heaven's employ,  
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

4 Redeemer, come! I open wide  
my heart to thee: here, Lord, abide!  
Let me thy inner presence feel:  
thy grace and love in me reveal.

5 So come, my Sovereign; enter in!  
Let new and nobler life begin;  
thy Holy Spirit guide us on,  
until the glorious crown be won.

**Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**  
**Hymnal #81**

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
As seers of old have sung.  
It came, a blossom bright,  
Amid the cold of winter  
When half spent was the night.

2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
The Rose I have in mind:  
With Mary we behold it,  
The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright  
She bore to us a Savior  
When half spent was the night.

3 O Flower, whose fragrance tender  
With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispel in glorious splendor  
The darkness everywhere.  
True man, yet very God,  
From sin and death now save us  
And share our every load.

**There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying**  
**Hymnal #75**

1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
Prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where the Lord our God may go!

2 O Zion, that bringest good tidings,  
get thee up to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people  
the coming of their King.  
Like the flowers of the field they perish,  
like grass our works decay,  
the power and pomp of nations  
shall pass like a dream away;

3 but the word of our God endureth,  
the arm of the Lord is strong;  
he stands in the midst of nations,  
and he will right the wrong.  
He shall feed His flock like a shepherd,  
the lambs he'll gently hold;  
to pastures of peace he'll lead them,  
and bring them safe to his fold.

**Comfort, Comfort Ye My People**  
**Hymnal #67**

1 Comfort, comfort ye my people,  
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
comfort those who sit in darkness  
mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.

Speak ye to Jerusalem  
of the peace that waits for them;  
tell her that her sins I cover,  
and her warfare now is over.

2 Hark, the voice of one that crieth  
in the desert far and near,  
calling us to new repentance  
since the kingdom now is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way;  
let the valleys rise to meet him,  
and the hills bow down to greet him.

3 Make ye straight what long was crooked,  
make the rougher places plain;  
let your hearts be true and humble,  
as befits his holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
now o'er earth is shed abroad;  
and all flesh shall see the token  
that the word is never broken.

### **The Angel Gabriel** **Hymnal #265**

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favored lady,” Gloria!
2. “For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honor thee,  
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favored lady,” Gloria!
3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said,  
“my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name.”  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!
4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever  
say— “Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!

### **Blest Be the King Whose Coming** **(*Valet will ich dir geben*)** **Hymnal #74**

1 Blest be the King whose coming  
is in the name of God!  
For him let doors be opened,  
no hearts against him barred!

2 Not robed in royal splendour,  
in power and pomp, comes he;  
but clad as are the poorest—  
such his humility!

3 Blest be the King whose coming  
is in the name of God!  
By those who truly listen  
his voice is truly heard.

4 Pity the proud and haughty,  
who have not learned to heed  
the Christ who is the Promise,  
who has our ransom paid.

5 Blest be the King whose coming  
is in the name of God!  
He only to the humble  
reveals the face of God.

6 All power is his, all glory!  
All things are in his hand,  
all ages and all peoples,  
till time itself shall end!

7 Blest be the King whose coming  
is in the name of God!  
He offers to the burdened  
the rest and grace they need.

8 Gentle is he and humble!  
And light his yoke shall be,  
for he would have us bear it  
so he can make us free!

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