

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessings in His hand
Christ our God on earth descend-eth
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture
in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faith-ful
His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day
That the pow'rs of hell may van-ish
as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph;
cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia
Al-le-lu-ia, Lord Most High!"

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in preparation for good news is about to be proclaimed. We gather in expectation for joy is about to explode in our midst. We gather in celebration for we are those people who have said yes to the manger, yes to love enfleshed, yes to the one incarnate for others, yes to the wholeness of God. With preparation and in expectation, let us celebrate!

JOYFUL, JOYFUL

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
earth and heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in Thee.

JOYFUL, JOYFUL cont.

Singing bird and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blessed,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
all who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus,
which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning over us,
brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music leads us Sunward
in the triumph song of life.

KING OF KINGS

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

Praise the Father, Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died

And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

KING OF KINGS cont.

And the Church of Christ was born
 Then the Spirit lit the flame
 Now this gospel truth of old
 Shall not kneel shall not faint
 By His blood and in His Name
 In His freedom I am free
 For the love of Jesus Christ
 Who has resurrected me

Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 50

Q125. What does the fourth petition mean?

A. "Give us this day our daily bread" means: Do take care of all our physical needs so that we come to know that you are the only source of everything good, and that neither our work and worry nor your gifts can do us any good without your blessing. And so help us to give up our trust in creatures and trust in you alone.

CONFESSION OF SIN

God of love, all year long we pursue power and money, yet you came in weakness, as a child. All season long we want more stuff, more for us, but you alone offer what is lasting. Through the work of our Lord Jesus, who comes among us full of grace and truth, forgive us, heal us, correct us. Then open our lips, that we may sing your praise with the angels, When we allow darkness to overcome the light, forgive us, Lord. When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel, have mercy on us, Father. When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and believing in Your Son, let your grace fill us, O God. **Forgive our doubt and renew our hopes in Christ alone, that we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord. In His name we ask, Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky. Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps. In Christ, God's salvation is at hand, and righteousness has come.

—based on Psalm 85:9–13, NRSV—

ALL MUST BE WELL

Through the love of God our Savior, all will be well
 Free and changeless is His favor, all is well
 Precious is the blood that healed us
 Perfect is the grace that sealed us
 Strong the hand stretched forth to shield us
 All must be well

Though we pass through tribulation, all will be well
 Ours is such a full salvation, all is well

ALL MUST BE WELL cont.

Happy still in God confiding
 Fruitful if in Christ abiding
 Steadfast through the Spirit's guiding
 All must be well

We expect a bright tomorrow; all will be well
 Faith can sing through days of sorrow, all is well
 On our Father's love relying
 Jesus every need supplying
 Yes in living or in dying
 All must be well

SERMON**DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise him, all creatures here below;
 Praise him above, ye heav'nly host:
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

COMMUNION**YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN**

Your labor is not in vain
 Though the ground underneath you is cursed and stained
 Your planting and reaping are never the same
 Your labor is not in vain

Your labor is not unknown
 Though the rocks they cry out and the sea it may groan
 The place of your toil may not seem like a home
 But Your labor is not unknown

I am with you, I am with you
 I am with you, I am with you
 For I have called you, called you by name
 Your labor is not in vain

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit
 The fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth
 For all that is old will at last be made new
 The vineyards you plant will bear fruit
 REPEAT CHORUS

The houses you labored to build
 Will finally with laughter and joy be filled
 The serpent that hurts and destroys will be killed
 And all that is broken be healed
 REPEAT CHORUS