



**WATCH, WAIT, AND WONDER:
A MIDWEEK SERIES FOR ADVENT**

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These Advent liturgies lookback to the Sunday celebration to practice prayer in the moods and gestures evoked in this season. In the spirit of “keeping vigil,” the first week centers upon watching for Christ’s coming again. The second week calls us to prayerful waiting in preparation for the coming of Jesus. Drawing upon the idea that “wisdom begins in wonder,” the third week invites us to embrace imaginative wonderment at the things of God.

MIDWEEK WORSHIP will be held in the parking lot at 7:00 PM on the following Wednesdays: December 2, 9, and 16.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP will be held in the parking lot on Thursday, December 24 at 3:00 PM, 6:00 PM, and 8:00 PM.

ONLINE CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP will be available on our YouTube Channel: www.YouTube.LCRsermons beginning at Noon on December 24th.

HOLY COMMUNION: After you’ve joined in online worship we encourage you to drive over to LCR to receive Holy Communion from one of our pastors. This will be available from 4:00 – 5:00 PM

GATHERING

Candles, including those on the Advent wreath, are lit before the service begins. A large, lighted candle may be carried to its place.

ADVENT DIALOGUE

The Spirit and the | church cry out:

Amen. | Come, Lord Jesus.

All those who await his ap- | pearance pray:

Amen. | Come, Lord Jesus.

The whole cre- | ation pleads:

Amen. | Come, Lord Jesus.

Week 1

It is now time for you to wake from sleep;
the night is far spent; the light draws near.

Week 2

The voice of one crying in the wilderness says:
“Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight.”

Week 3

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing,
give thanks in all circumstances.

HYMN

Music for hymns is attached

Week 1: ELW # 434 “Jesus Shall Reign”

Week 2: ELW # 257 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Week 3: ELW # 242 “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

PRAYER

Week 1

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.
As darkness falls, may we watch for your light.
Keep us awake and alert to your coming
and strengthen us to the end,
that we may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Week 2

Stir up our hearts, O Lord,
to prepare the way for the coming of your Son.
Give us courage and faith to proclaim, in word and deed,
the good news of your coming,
even as we wait in patience
for that day when Christ will come again.

Amen.

Week 3

Stir up our hearts in wonder, O God.
May we wear a mantle of praise
as we delight in your gift of salvation,
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PSALM

The psalm may be chanted by the leader.

Week 1 - Psalm 130

¹Out | of the depths

I cry to | you, O LORD;

²O LORD, | hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my | supplication.

³If you were to keep watch | over sins,

O LORD, | who could stand?

⁴Yet with you | is forgiveness,

in order that you | may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; | my soul waits;

in your word | is my hope.

⁶My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch | for the morning,

more than those who keep watch | for the morning.

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is | steadfast love;

with the LORD there is plen- | teous redemption.

⁸For the LORD shall | redeem Israel

from | all their sins.

Silence

God of compassion, you sent your Word into the world to announce the dawn of salvation. Do not leave us in the depths of our sins, but give to us the fullness of your redeeming grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Week 2 - Psalm 37:3-8; 16-19; 28-29

³Put your trust in the LORD | and do good;
dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.

⁴Take delight | in the LORD,
who shall give you your | heart's desire.

⁵Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust | in the LORD,
and see what | God will do.

⁶The LORD will make your vindication as clear | as the light
and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.

⁷Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers,
the one who succeeds in | evil schemes.

⁸Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil.

¹⁶Better is the little that the | righteous have
than the great riches | of the wicked.

¹⁷For the power of the wicked | shall be broken,
but the LORD up- | holds the righteous.

¹⁸The LORD knows the lives | of the godly,
and their inheritance shall | last forever.

¹⁹They shall not wither in times | of disaster,
and in days of famine they shall be | fully satisfied.

²⁸For the LORD loves justice, and will never forsake those | who are faithful;
they shall be kept safe forever,
but the offspring of the wicked shall | be destroyed.

²⁹The righteous shall inher- | it the land
and dwell in | it forever.

Silence

God our strength, give us the humility to trust in your loving care, and the patience to be faithful in seeking your way, that we may come to share in the inheritance of your saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Week 3 - Psalm 126

¹When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.

²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great | things for them."

³The LORD has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.

⁴Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.

⁵Those who | sowed with tears
will reap with | songs of joy.

⁶Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.

Silence

Faithful God, like a grain of wheat falling into the earth your Son went into death, so that after three days the earth might bloom with the joy of his rising. Let the seeds of justice, which we plant with tears, bring forth the power of the resurrection in the places of death and despair, and gather us at last into the joyful harvest of the saints; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE

We look back upon Sunday, using a scripture reading or portion of a scripture reading from that day.

Week 1 - Mark 13:33-37

³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Week 2 - 2 Peter 3:8-15a

⁸But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him.

Week 3 - Isaiah 61:1-3; 10-11

¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³to provide for those who mourn in Zion —
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

REFLECTION

Begin reflection using the following questions.

Week 1

What word, image, or phrase stands out for you in this reading?

What will you watch and pray about this Advent?

What will help you stay awake?

Week 2

What word, image, or phrase stands out for you in this reading?

What in your life requires patience?

What are you waiting for?

How might you prepare the way of Christ's coming?

Week 3

What word, image, or phrase stands out for you in this reading?

Where will you look for God's glory?

Where do you engage in wonder at God's creation; in wonder at the love, grace, and forgiveness of Christ; in wonder at the transforming work of the Holy Spirit?

HYMN

Music for hymns is attached

Week 1: ELW # 248 "People Look East"

Week 2: ELW # 564 "Prepare the Royal Highway"

Week 3: ELW # 267 "Joy to the World"

PRAYERS

Respond to each petition:

Week 1. We watch for your mercy;

Week 2. We wait for your mercy,

Week 3. May your wonder-filled mercy come.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Response

For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.

Response

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for
the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Response

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Response

For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all may share,
and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Response

For public servants, the government, and those who protect us;
for those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection
in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

Response

For those who travel, for those who are sick and suffering,
and for those who are in captivity, let us pray to the Lord.

Response

For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need,
let us pray to the Lord.

Response

For all servants of the church, for this assembly, and for all people who await from
the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

Response

Giving thanks for all who have gone before us and are at rest, rejoicing in the communion of all the saints, we commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to you, through Christ our Lord.

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

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.**

BLESSING

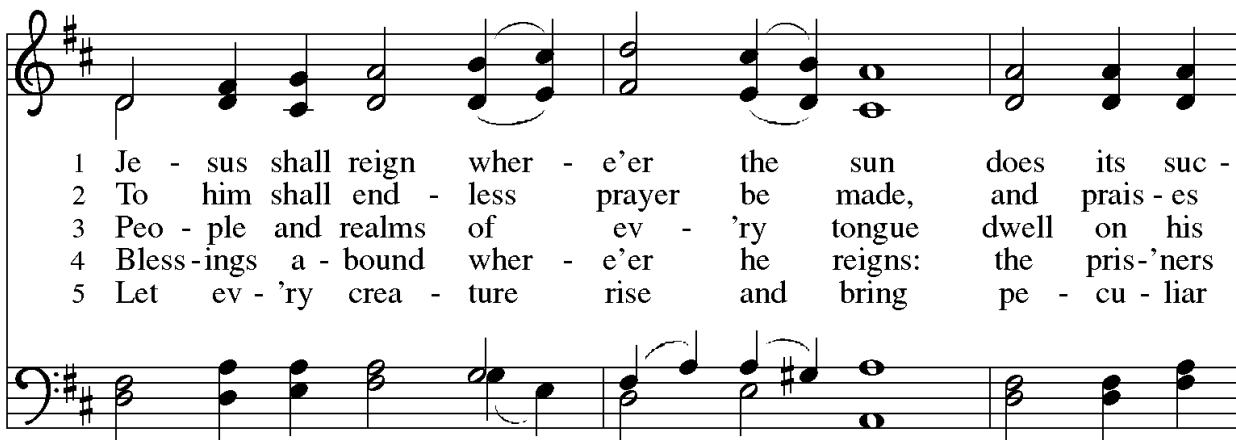
It is true, even as we wait, watch, and wonder,
God is with us.

Almighty God, the Father, ✝ the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless and preserve you this Advent.

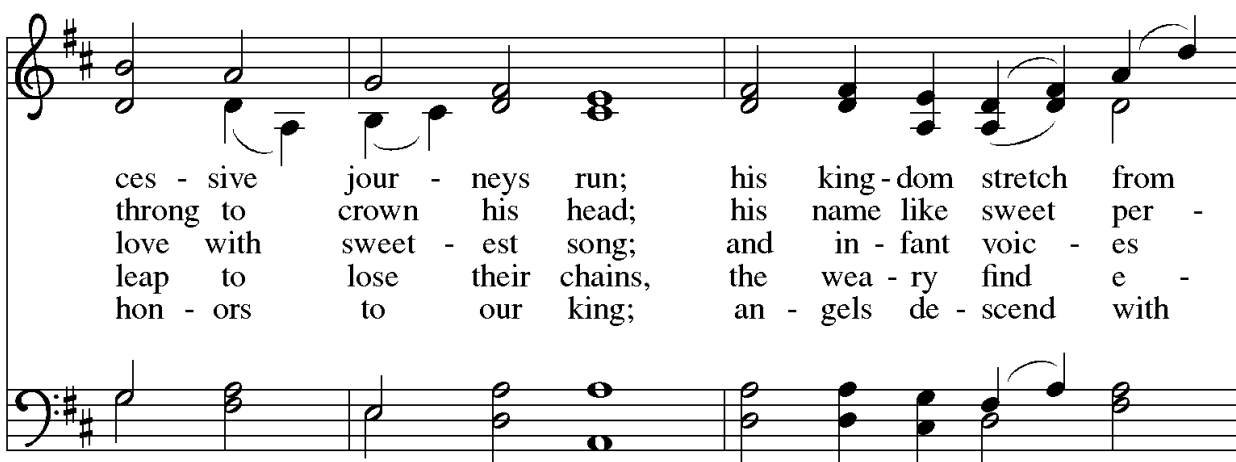
Amen.

A greeting of peace may be shared by all.

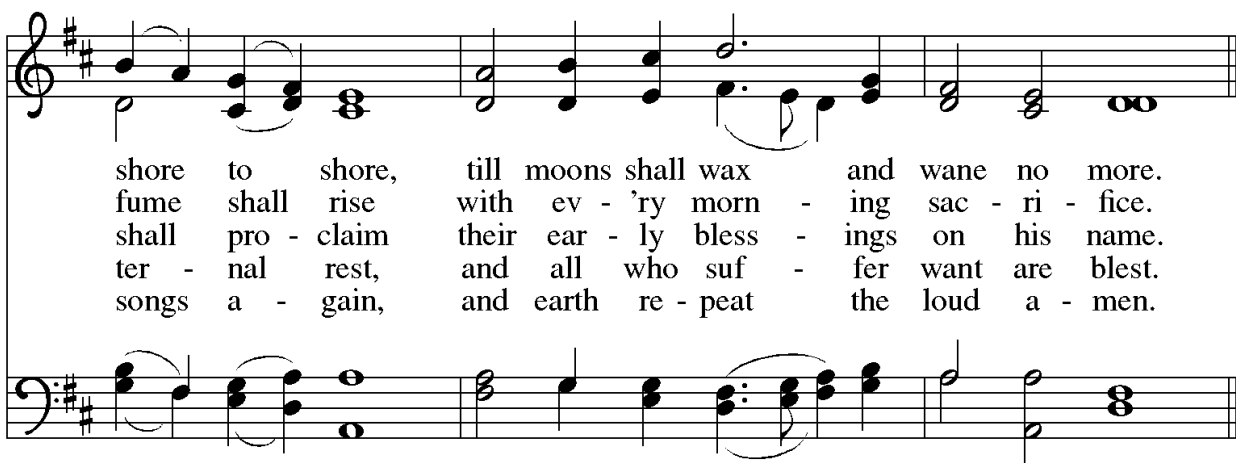
Week 1: ELW # 434 "Jesus Shall Reign"



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
 Music: DUKE STREET. attr. John Hatton. d. 1793

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Week 1: ELW # 248 "People Look East"

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

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Arr. © 1999 Novello & Co. Ltd., London

BESANÇON

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Week 2: LBW # 34 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"



- 1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
- 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on
- 3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's
- 4 Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your
- 5 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joice! Re - joice!
 and death's dark shad-ows put to flight.
 and close the path to mis - er - y.



Em-man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

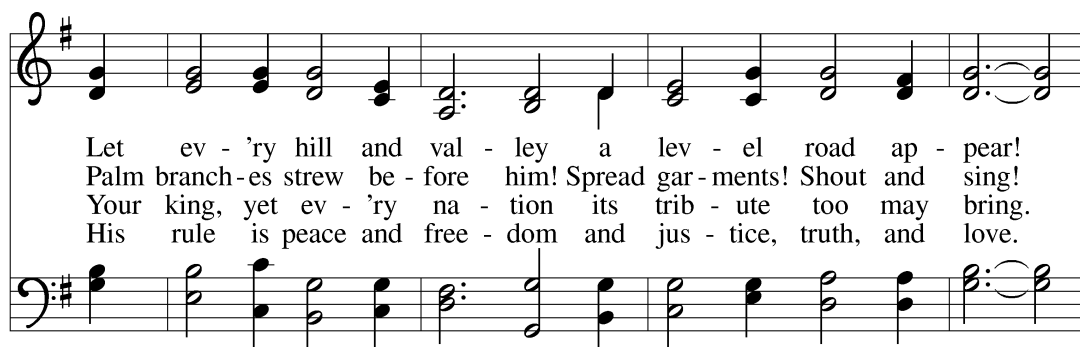
Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

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Week 2: ELW # 564 "Prepare the Royal Highway"



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

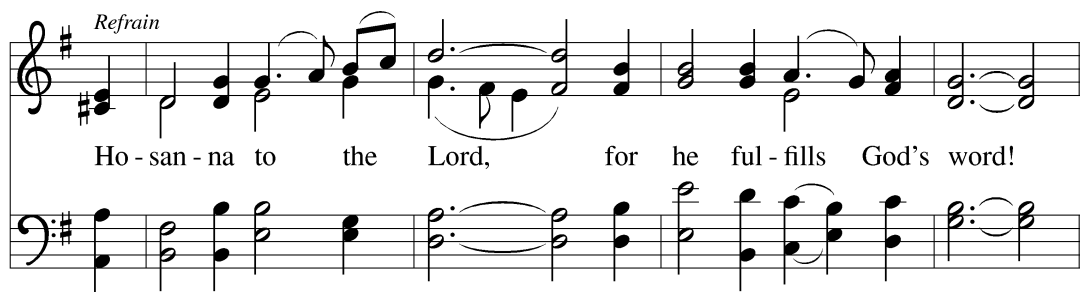


Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch-es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



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

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Week 3: ELW # 242 "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



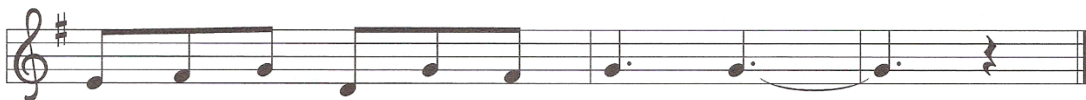
soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: Marty Haugen
 Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

REJOICE, REJOICE
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Week 3: ELW # 267 "Joy to the World"

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

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

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

ANTIOCH

CM and repeat

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