

My whole being hopes and I wait for God's
promise

Psalm 130:5

Meaning of the colors of the candles

The Candles symbolize that Jesus is the Light of the World.

There are four candles, one for each Sunday leading to Christmas and a fifth candle for Christmas day. There are variations in the coloring of the candles, often there are three purple and one pink candle. The central candle is usually a large white pillar candle.

The purple represents repentance. The pink symbolizes joy. The central candle is called the Christ candle and is not lit until Christmas day.

The First Candle (The Candle of Hope)

The first candle is sometimes called the candle of prophecy because it symbolizes the promises the prophets delivered as messages from God; promises that foretold Christ's birth. Others consider the candle to be a symbol of the hope we have in Christ and so it is called the Hope candle.

The Second Candle (The Candle of the Way)

The second candle shows that Christ is the Way. Christians are lost in sin and Christ is the Light sent into the world to show them the way out of darkness.

The Third Candle (The Candle of Joy)

The third candle indicates that the only lasting Joy to be found in life on earth is through Christ. All other joy is fleeting and does not last.

The Fourth Candle (The Candle of Peace)

The fourth candle reminds that Jesus comes to bring Peace to both the world and to people's hearts. Without Christ there is no peace in this world.

The Fifth Candle (The Christ Candle or Christmas Candle)

The fifth candle represents Christ himself who is born to save people from their sins. It is a celebration of the fulfillment of prophecy as represented in Christ's birth and hope in the final fulfillment when Christ comes again and Christians join him.



ADVENT SONG (II)

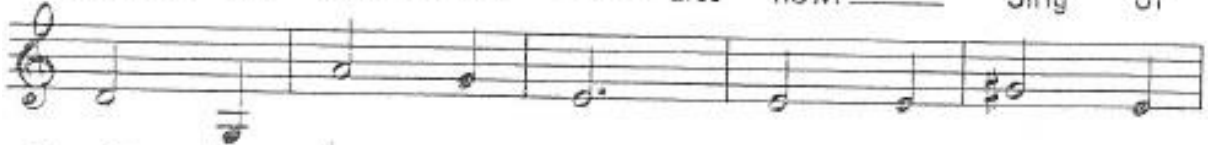
(Organ: p. 20 // Guitar)

Mary Lu Walker

VERSES:



- 1. Light the Ad - vent can - dle one. _____ Now the
- 2. Light the Ad - vent can - dle two. _____ Think of
- 3. Light the Ad - vent can - dle three. _____ Think of
- 4. Light the Ad - vent can - dle four. _____ Think of
- 5. Light the Christ - mas can - dles now. _____ Sing of



- 1. wait - ing has be - gun. We have start - ed
- 2. hum - ble shep - herds who filled with won - der
- 3. hap - py har - mo - ny. An - gels sing - ing
- 4. joy for - ev - er - more. Christ - child in the
- 5. don - key, sheep, and cow. Birth - day can - dles

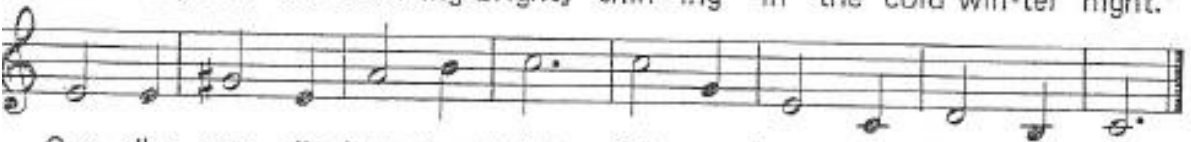


- 1. on our way. _____ Time to think of Christ - mas Day.
- 2. at the sight _____ of the Child on Christ - mas night.
- 3. "Peace on earth" _____ at the Sav - ior's bless - ed birth.
- 4. sta - ble born. _____ Gift of love that Christ - mas morn.
- 5. for the King. _____ Let the "Al - le - lu - ias" ring.

REFRAIN:



Can - dle, can - dle burn - ing bright, shin - ing in the cold win - ter night.



Can - dle, can - dle, burn - ing bright, fill our hearts with Christ - mas light.

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Season of Advent - Holy Eucharist

Liturgy of the Word

Entrance Rite

At the sound of the bell, all stand for the Entrance of the Ministers into the church.

Processional Hymn

Signs of endings all around us

WLP 721

The musical score is for a processional hymn in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major (two flats). It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part consists of a right-hand melody and a left-hand accompaniment. The vocal line has three verses of lyrics. The piano accompaniment includes triplet markings in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The score is divided into two systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment.

1. Signs of end-ings all a - round us— dark - ness, death, and win - ter days
2. Can it be that from our end - ings, new be - gin - nings you cre - ate?
3. Speak, O God, your Word a - mong us. Bar - ren lives your pres - ence fill.

shroud our lives in fear and sad - ness, numb - ing mouths that long to praise.
Life from death, and from our rend - ings, realms of whole - ness gen - er - ate?
Swell our hearts with songs of glad - ness, ter - rors calm fore - bod - ings still.

Come, O³ Christ, and dwell a - mong us! Hear our cries, come set us free.
 Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them in - to hopes for life a - new:
 Let your prom - ised realm of jus - tice blos - som now through - out the earth;

 Give us hope and faith and glad - ness. Show us what there yet can be.
 Fad - ing light and dy - ing sea - son sing their Glo - ri - as to you.
 your do - min - ion bring now near us; we a - wait the sav - ing birth.

All standing, the Celebrant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Celebrant says the Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The following is sung, all standing (Three times)

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

First Reading - Isaiah 2:1-5

All sit.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 122 (BCP p.779)

Remain seated.

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, *
 “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

- 2 Now our feet are standing *
 within your gates, O Jerusalem.

- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
 that is at unity with itself;

- 4 To which the tribes go up,
 the tribes of the LORD, *
 the assembly of Israel,
 to praise the Name of the LORD.

- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
 the thrones of the house of David.

- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
 “May they prosper who love you.

- 7 Peace be within your walls *
 and quietness within your towers.

- 8 For my brethren and companions’ sake, *
 I pray for your prosperity.

- 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
 I will seek to do you good.”

Second Reading - Romans 13:11-14

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

All stand.

Awake, O sleeper, rise from death

Hymnal 547



1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and
3 There is one Bo - dy and one hope, one Spi - rit
4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that
5 For us Christ lived, for us he died and con - quered



1 give you light, so learn his love— its length and
2 fear re - lease, to give the Spi - rit's u - ni -
3 and one call, one Lord, one Faith, and one Bap -
4 he might save; with kind and gen - tle hearts for -
5 in the strife. A - wake, a - rise, go forth in



1 breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
2 ty, the ve - ry bond of peace.
3 tism, one Fa - ther of us all.
4 give as God in Christ for - gave.
5 faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Holy Gospel

All stand.

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Nicene Creed

BCP p. 358

All stand and together say

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and
the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

All remain standing.

Celebrant

Brothers and sisters, as we joyfully await the full manifestation of God's reign in Christ, let us pray for the needs of the church and the world.

O Wisdom, you come forth from the mouth of the Most High and reach from beginning to end, mightily and sweetly ordering all things. Behold and bless your church, remembering especially Michael our Presiding Bishop, Jennifer our Bishop, Christopher our priest, Shelbi and Caroline our Wardens, our Bishop's Committee, and in the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for..., and in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer,

we pray for.... We pray for our companion dioceses of Bor and Brasilia and their bishops, Ruben and Mauricio. We pray for St. Andre's in Mithon and the Bishop and people of the Diocese of Haiti. Be present in ordering the life of this and every congregation.

Come and teach us the way of prudence.

O Adonai, God of the Covenant, ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and on Mount Sinai gave your law. We pray for those working to become beloved community and for a just and proper use of the land through our Care of Creation ministries. Forgive us when we stray from your guidance and will.

Come and redeem us for our life together.

O Root of Jesse, you stand as an ensign to humankind; before you rulers will shut their mouths, and nations bow in worship: We pray for your peace and justice in every nation and throughout the world; be present to all whose lives are ravaged by war and strife. Guide the leaders of this and every land into the paths of peace and goodwill.

Come save us and do not delay.

O Key of David, and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can shut, you shut and no one can open: Guide us in opening the doors of opportunity for the unemployed, for the homeless, for prisoners, and for all who are oppressed; and lead us in closing the doors that lead to poverty, bigotry, and injustice.

Come and bring the captives out of the prison house.

O King of the Nations, you are the cornerstone that makes us one: We lift up all who are suffering and in need, especially.... Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous and help us minister to them in your love.

Come and save us whom you have fashioned out of clay.

O Dayspring, radiance of the Light Eternal and Sun of Righteousness: Shine your light on those who have died; remember especially those we now name..., and bring comfort to all those who mourn.

Come and enlighten all who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

O Emmanuel, God with us, Expected One and Saviour, We give thanks for all the blessings of this life; for all those who today celebrate birthdays... and anniversaries...; and for the other blessings we now name silently or aloud [pause]. Make each of us ready to receive you into our hearts, to serve you in all whom we meet, and to greet you in the fullness of your glory in the day of your appearing.

Come and save us, O Lord our God.

The Priest adds the following concluding Collect

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

All kneel.

The Celebrant says

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1 John 1:8, 9*

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

Minister and People together say

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive,
restore, and strengthen us through our
Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. *Amen.*

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Peace

All stand.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The peace of the Lord be always with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

Announcements may be made at this point in the service.

Liturgy of the Table - Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn – see insert

“Sleepers, wake!” A Voice Astounds Us

Hymnal 61

1 “Sleep - ers, wake!” A voice a - stounds us, the
2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing; her
3 Lamb of God, the heavens a - dore you; let

shout of ram - part - guards sur - rounds us: “A -
heart with joy - ful hope is spring - ing, she
saints and an - gels sing be - fore you, as

wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!” Mid - night’s peace their
wakes and hur - ries through the night. Forth he comes, her
harps and cym - bals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the

cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum - mons clear - ly spo -
Bride-groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in truth vic - to -
ci - ty’s por - tals: through them we stream to join the im - mor -

ken: "The time has come, O maid - ens wise!
 rious: her star is risen, her light grows bright.
 tals as we with joy your throne sur - round.

Rise up, and give us light; the Bride - groom is in
 Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, In - car - nate
 No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de -

sight. Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre - pare and
 Word, Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and
 light: Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing to

has - ten there, that you the wed - ding feast may share."
 heed your call to come in - to the ban - quet hall.
 greet our King; for ev - er let our prais - es ring.

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the Celebrant or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

The people stand or kneel.

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 the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, 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 Lord 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 he 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,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
 We proclaim his resurrection,
 We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord 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 to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, 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 Blessed Peter and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

The Celebrant then continues

And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us, we
are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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.

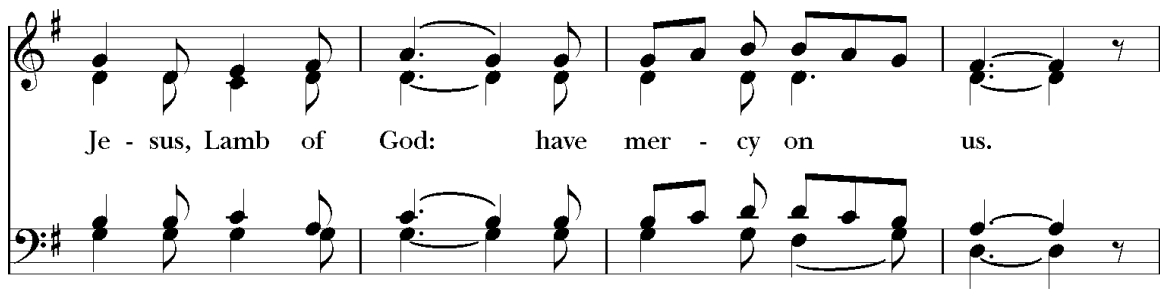
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.

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. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

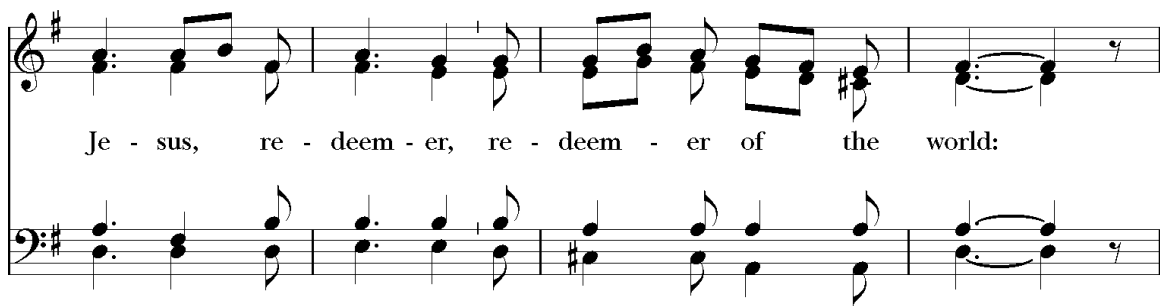
A period of silence is kept.



Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:



give us your peace, give us your peace.

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died

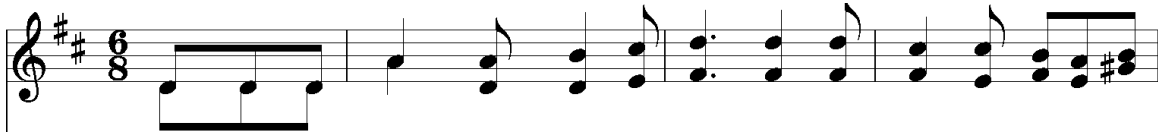
for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Communion Hymn – see insert

People, look East!

WLP 724



1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is plant - ed
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall
5. An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to



1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the
2. there: give up your strength the seed to nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may
3. filled. E - ven the hour when wings are fro - zen God for fledg - ling time has
4. brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er, bright as sun and moon to -
5. earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley hum-ming with the word, the Lord is



1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.
 2. flour-ish. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.
 3. cho - sen. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.
 4. geth - er. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the star is on the way.
 5. com - ing. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the Lord is on the way.

After the

Communion Hymn, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Postcommunion Prayer

BCP p. 365

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

The priest blesses the people, saying

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 – see insert

The King shall come when morning dawns

Hymnal 73

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains five verses of lyrics, and the second system contains five verses. The melody is primarily in the soprano part, with the bass part providing a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are as follows:

1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
2 Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, to
3 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
4 and let the end - less bliss be - gin, by
5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and

1 light tri - um - phant breaks; when beau - ty gilds the
2 bear, and fight, and die, but crowned with glo - ry
3 earth's dark night is past; O haste the ris - ing
4 wear - y saints fore - told, when right shall tri - umph
5 light and beau - ty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy

1 east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
 2 like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.
 3 of that morn, the day that e'er shall last;
 4 o - ver wrong, and truth shall be ex - tolled.
 5 peo - ple pray, come quick - ly, King of kings.

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

A Note on Today's Readings

The First Sunday of Advent—Year A

Welcome to our parish. On this Advent Sunday, the liturgy is centered on the second Advent of Christ, when he will return as judge and establish the Kingdom of God. In today's Gospel reading Jesus tells his followers that his return will be sudden and with no warning. Therefore, we are to live at all times as though his return is imminent.

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah foresees that Kingdom as God's reign over a united and peaceful humanity. All people will know themselves to be the children of God and brothers and sisters to all other people.

The second reading from Romans exhorts us to live as though we were in the last days. We are to live as though the Kingdom has come; shunning darkness and living in the light of God's presence.

The Advent theme that points to Jesus' first coming in his birth becomes the sign for us of the Advent yet to come. As we gather in the Eucharist, we find in our liturgical action a foretaste of the unity and peace of God's Kingdom. We recognize that in this in-between time (between Jesus' first coming and his second) we ourselves are caught up in the Eucharist into the Kingdom.

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