

Welcome and notices

Lighting of advent ring

SoF377

LOVE DIVINE, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit,
Let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation,
 Pure and spotless let us be;
 Let us see Thy great salvation
 Perfectly restored in Thee!
 Changed from glory into glory,
 Till in heaven we take our place;
 Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
 Lost in wonder, love and praise.

Charles Wesley.

**Almighty God,
 to whom all hearts are open,
 all desires known,
 and from whom no secrets are hidden:
 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.**

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
 'Make straight the way of the Lord.'
 So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

God, through Jesus Christ,
 will judge the secret thoughts of all:
 Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,'
 will enter the kingdom of heaven:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Let anyone who has an ear
listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

May almighty God,
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring *you* his pardon and peace, now and for ever.

Amen.

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

SoF1202

COME DOWN, O LOVE DIVINE,

Seek Thou this soul of mine
And visit it with Thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;

And let Thy glorious light
 Shine ever on my sight,
 And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
 Mine outward vesture be,
 And lowliness become mine inner clothing;
 True lowliness of heart,
 Which takes the humbler part,
 And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
 With which the soul will long,
 Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
 For none can guess its grace,
 Till he become the place
 Wherein the Holy Spirit makes His dwelling.

after Bianco da Siena (1367-1434)

Richard F. Littledale (1833-90)

Bible Readings:

Romans 13 : 8-14

Matt 25 1-13

Talk

Prayers

SoF 451

O THOU WHO CAMEST FROM ABOVE

The pure celestial fire to impart,
 Kindle a flame of sacred love

On the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for Thy glory burn
 With inextinguishable blaze,
 And trembling to its source return,
 In humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
 To work, and speak, and think for Thee;
 Still let me guard the holy fire,
 And still stir up Thy gift in me.

Ready for all Thy perfect will,
 My acts of faith and love repeat,
 Till death Thy endless mercies seal,
 And make the sacrifice complete.

Charles Wesley.

The peace of the lord be always with you

And also with you

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

(end streaming)

The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
 through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
 through whom you have created all things;

who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.
 By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
 as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
 he lived on earth and went about among us;
 he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
 he put an end to death by dying for us;
 and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
 so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks
 because you sent him to redeem us from sin and death
 and to make us inheritors of everlasting life;
 that when he shall come again in power and great triumph
 to judge the world,
 we may with joy behold his appearing,
 and in confidence may stand before him.
 Therefore with angels and archangels,
 and with all the company of heaven,
 we proclaim your great and glorious name,
 for ever praising you and *saying*:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
 grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
 and according to your holy will,
 these gifts of bread and wine
 may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
 who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
 took bread and gave you thanks;
 he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

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.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,

for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **Our Father in heaven,**

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours

now and for ever. Amen.

We break this bread

to share in the body of Christ.B

All **Though we are many, we are one body,**

because we all share in one bread.

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ

which he gave for you,

and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink

in remembrance that he died for you,

and feed on him in your hearts

by faith with thanksgiving.

Distribution

O Lord our God,
 make us watchful and keep us faithful
 as we await the coming of your Son our Lord;
 that, when he shall appear,
 he may not find us sleeping in sin
 but active in his service
 and joyful in his praise;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

SoF314

JOY TO THE WORLD! the Lord has come;
 Let earth receive her King.
 Let every heart prepare Him room,
 And heaven and nature sing,
 And heaven and nature sing,
 And heaven, and heaven and nature sing!

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns;
 Your sweetest songs employ.
 While fields and streams and hills and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat the sounding joy,
 Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!
 He rules the world with truth and grace,
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of His righteousness,
 The wonders of His love,
 The wonders of His love,
 The wonders, the wonders of His love.
 Isaac Watts.

With love and compassion,

come, Lord Jesus.

With judgement and mercy,

come, Lord Jesus.

In power and glory,

come, Lord Jesus.

In wisdom and truth,

come, Lord Jesus.

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

Amen.

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