

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The First Sunday in Advent
November 29, 2020



“O that you would tear open
the heavens and come down.”



“Then they will see
‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’
with great power and glory.”

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Prelude

Announcements and Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Season of Advent

The 1st Sunday

The real GIFT of Christmas is the Christchild, and as Christians we know that. While the world "prepares" by shopping, decorating, and planning, we do all that, but WE also prepare by REMEMBERING.....How the Heavenly Father saw humankind so lost and unhappy, so misguided and sinful, that they needed a SAVIOR. Then He prepared the way, and finally sent His SON to be that Savior! We join the world in preparing our homes and families, but we also prepare our HEARTS. We remind ourselves of God's great act and all the ways He prepared the world for what He was going to do. We mark the season of ADVENT with candles and stories that symbolize our hope so that ... *"when He comes, He may find in us a mansion, prepared for Himself."*

Our King and Savior now draws near.

Come, let us adore Him! Alleluia!

Glory to God in the highest,

And on earth peace, goodwill to all people!!

Let us pray:

O Heavenly Father, you have surrounded us with the light of Your presence; we remember with joy and awe that the world is Your creation and that life is Your gift. Lift up our thoughts from the littleness of our own works to the greatness and majesty, and the wonder of Yours, and teach us so to behold Your glory that we may walk in the steps of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN

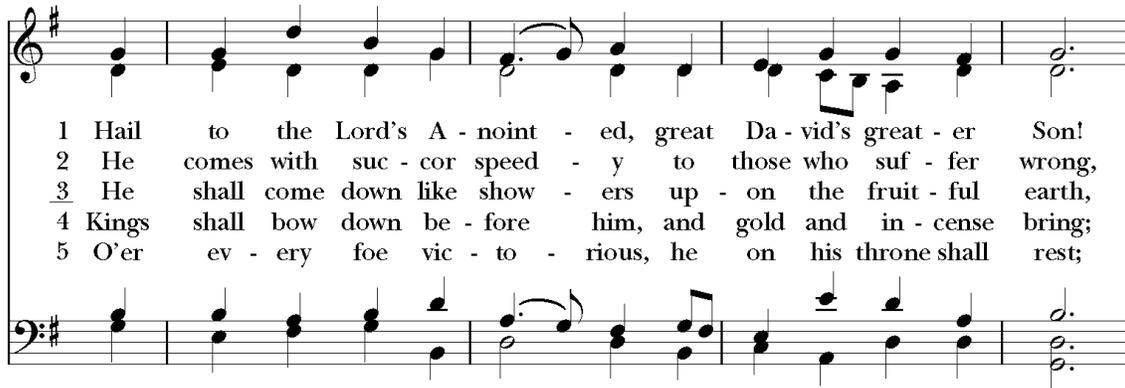
This first candle reminds us of MOSES....The brave man God chose to lead His people out of slavery in Egypt in the event we call the EXODUS. God led His people to the Promised Land and gave them the 10 Commandments as a standard they could use to make sure their behavior pleased Him. We thank God for His servant, Moses, who showed us God is really present and active in the world, and who delivered God's Law so that we could show God our love by our faithfulness and obedience. Remember MOSES, who revealed God's presence with us, and His will for us.

Prepare Ye the way of the Lord!!

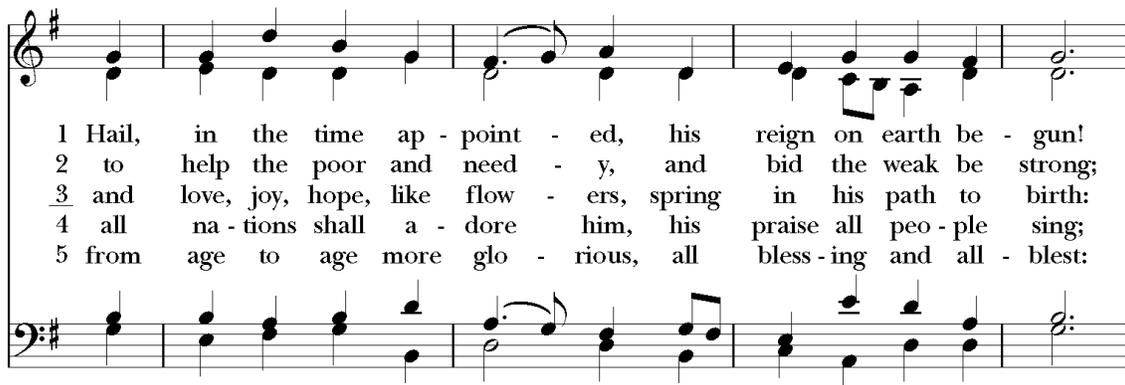
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God!

Hymn 616(V:1,3,4)

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"



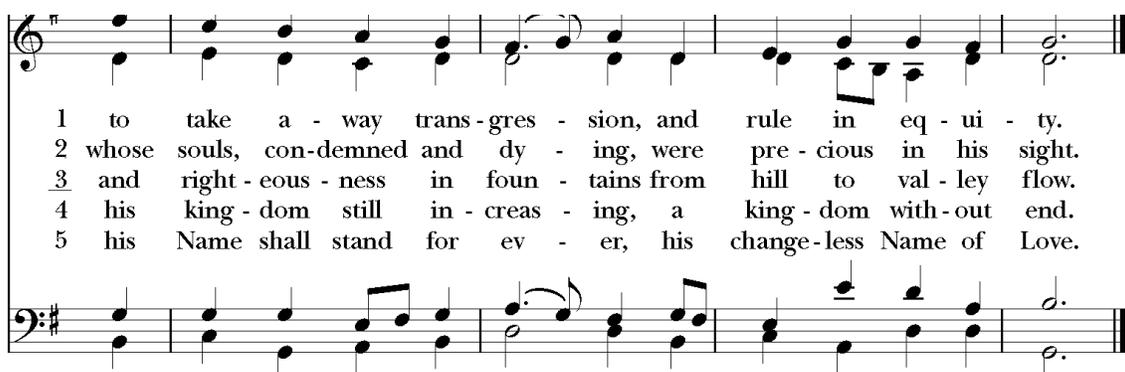
1 Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!
2 He comes with suc - cor speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,
3 He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth,
4 Kings shall bow down be - fore him, and gold and in - cense bring;
5 O'er ev - ery foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall rest;



1 Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!
2 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;
3 and love, joy, hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth:
4 all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing;
5 from age to age more glo - rious, all bless - ing and all - blest:



1 He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;
2 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,
3 be - fore him on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go;
4 to him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows a - scend;
5 the tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;



1 to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.
2 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.
3 and right - eous - ness in foun - tains from hill to val - ley flow.
4 his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.
5 his Name shall stand for ev - er, his change - less Name of Love.

The Word of God

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

***People:* And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: Let us Pray.

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.

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

The Collect for the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

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.**

The Readings from Scripture

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18; *Qui regis Israel*

**Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**

**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

**Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

**O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?**

**You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**

**You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

**Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

**Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

**And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.**

**Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be
saved.**

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

***People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Mark 13:24-37

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It 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. Therefore, 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, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

***People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Hymn 58 (V:1,2,3)

"Lo! He comes, with clouds descending"

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for our sal -
2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in dread - ful
3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion still his daz - zling
4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on thine e -

va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
ma - jes - ty; those who set at nought and sold him,
bo - dy bears, cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the power and glo - ry;

swell the tri - umph of his train: Al - le - lu - ia!
pierced, and nailed him to the tree, deep - ly wail - ing,
to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers; with what rap - ture,
claim the king - dom for thine own: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

The Nicene Creed

**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.**

The Prayers of the People

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and John and Diane, our Bishops, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

For Donald, our President, and Gavin, our Governor, and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed, eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Ever-present God, be with us in our isolation, be close to us in our distancing, be healing in our sickness, be joy in our sadness, be light in our darkness, be wisdom in our confusion, be all that is familiar when so much is unfamiliar. You are the Great Healer and we fervently ask that you bring to all people a sense of caring and compassion in the sacrifices we make for the sake of all around us; that you will bring healing and recovery to those who are ill, knowledge to our scientists, and ultimately an end to this pandemic. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

(A period of Silence is kept. Please add your petition and thanksgivings, silently or aloud.)

Celebrant: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people, in the multitude of your mercies, look with

compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

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

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

Celebrant: Please acknowledge one another with a word of peace.

The Offertory

Celebrant: Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all.

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

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 him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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 Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.

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

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.

These are the Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Prayer of Spiritual Communion (for those who are watching at home)

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.
(From The United States Military Prayerbook)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray.

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.

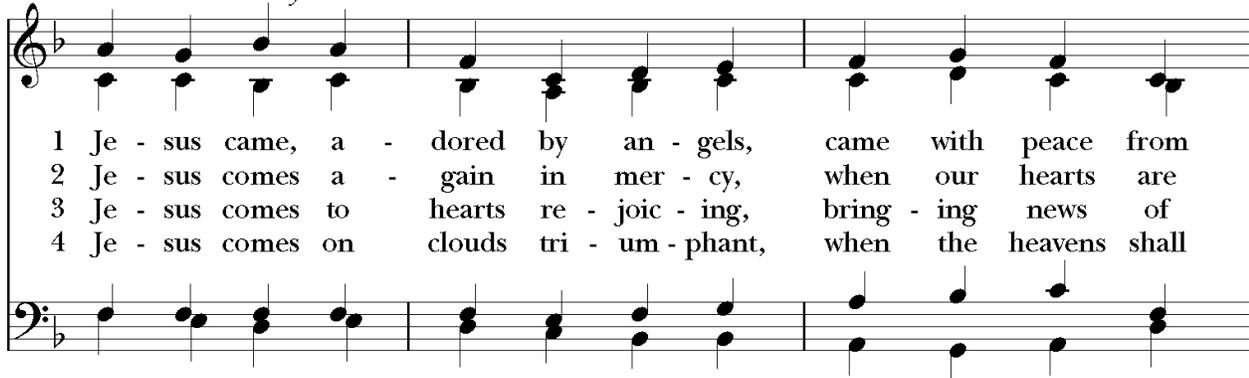
Celebrant: And now, May the Peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his son Jesus Christ, our Lord. And the Blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you this day and always. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

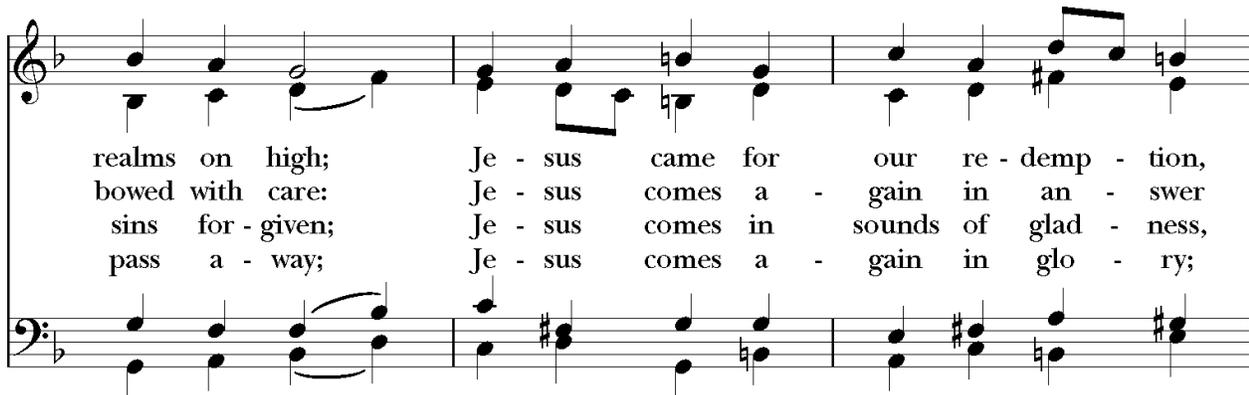
Thanks be to God.

Hymn 454(V:1,2,4) "Jesus came, Adored by Angels"

Unison or harmony



1 Je - sus came, a - dored by an - gels, came with peace from
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy, when our hearts are
3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, bring - ing news of
4 Je - sus comes on clouds tri - um - phant, when the heavens shall



realms on high; Je - sus came for our re - demp - tion,
bowed with care: Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer
sins for - given; Je - sus comes in sounds of glad - ness,
pass a - way; Je - sus comes a - gain in glo - ry;



low - ly came on earth to die: Al - le - lu - ia,
to our ear - nest heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia,
lead - ing souls re - deemed to heaven; Al - le - lu - ia,
let us then our hom - age pay: Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
al - le - lu - ia! comes to save us from de - spair.
al - le - lu - ia! now the gate of death is riven.
al - le - lu - ia! till the dawn of end - less day.

(Dismissal will begin during the last verse of the hymn.)

Postlude