



### **HYMN 3:1 & 3**

O God, we praise you, we acknowledge you as Lord.  
Eternal Father, you are everywhere adored.  
Led by the seraphim, the angels praise you rightly:  
“O holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty!  
Both heaven and earth are filled with your majestic  
splendour.”  
To you all angels never ceasing praises render.

O Christ, our glorious King, the victory you have won.  
You, Lord, are God the Father's everlasting Son.  
Yet you did not despise the Virgin's womb, O Saviour,  
when you came from on high to free mankind forever.  
You defeated death and Satan's power infernal;  
you opened up the way that leads to life eternal.

### **READING:** John 1:1-5 and 14-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not comprehend it.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, “this was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’” And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

**PRAYER & WELCOME:** The Bible is filled with many references to who Jesus is, His life, His Lordship, and what He came to do. The following names, titles and verses are given specifically to our Lord Jesus. The more we study this list the more we will understand who Jesus really is. As we read through, we can't help but give Him thanks and praise, Our Saviour and Lord who sets us free.

**ADAM:** (1 Corinthians 15:45) And so it is written, The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.

**ADVOCATE:** (1 John 2:1) My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

**ALMIGHTY and ALPHA and OMEGA:** (Revelation 1:8) I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end,” says the Lord, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

**AMEN:** (2 Corinthians 1:20) For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

**MEDITATION:** As the apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians 1:20b, God's 'Amen' **in** Christ must be responded to by our 'Amen' **through** Christ, who is our Mediator, in whom God speaks to us and through whom we speak to God. In heaven, Christ as our High Priest brings our imperfect praising of God in perfect form before the Father, but also our supplications; yes, whatever we pray in His Name. That is how, through Christ, our prayers will bring glory to God. The life-giving Spirit dwells within us to renew us, so that also on earth God is receiving glory from us. This too is Christ's work, when we through the Holy Spirit, respond to God's 'Amen' with our 'Amen' towards God. What is this 'Amen'? It is us saying that God's promises are trustworthy and that we firmly believe what Scripture tells us that God's love for us in Christ is true' that we never have to doubt this. Instead, in faith, we may thankfully embrace all of this and so glorify God each day.

**HYMN 79:1 & 5**

We come O Christ, to you, true Son of God and man,  
by whom all things consist, in whom all life began.  
In you alone we live and move  
and have our being in your love.

We worship you, Lord Christ, our Saviour & our King  
To you our youth and strength adoringly we bring  
so fill our hearts that all may view  
Your life in us and turn to you!

**APOSTLE OF OUR PROFESSION:** (Hebrews 3:1) Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

**AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH:** (Hebrews 12:2) Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**AUTHOR OF ETERNAL SALVATION:** (Hebrews 5:9) And having been perfected, he became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey him;

**BELOVED SON:** (Matthew 12:18) Behold My Servant, whom I have chosen; My Beloved, in whom My soul is well pleased: I will put My Spirit upon him, and he will declare justice to the Gentiles.

**BLESSED AND ONLY POTENTATE:** (1 Timothy 6:15) Which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

**BRANCH:** (Isaiah 4:2) In that day the Branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing for those of Israel who have escaped.

**MEDITATION:** "Branch of the Lord" is a messianic title for Jesus Christ, who came as a "shoot" from the seeming dead stump of David's dynasty. Isaiah looked beyond his people's trials to the glorious kingdom that will be established when Messiah comes to reign. David's dynasty was ready to end, but out of his family the Messiah would come. A godly remnant of Jews kept the nation alive so that the Messiah could be born.

His kingdom will involve righteous rule because the Son of God and the Spirit of God will administer its affairs justly. When the Messiah-King speaks the word, it is with power. His kingdom will also mean a restored creation because nature will once again enjoy the harmony it enjoyed before sin entered in.

**PSALM 132:6 & 10**

The Lord has once to David sworn  
an oath from which he will not turn:  
"There will to you a child be born,  
A son who from your line will spring  
whom on your throne I'll set as king.

"There I will cause, in David's line,  
a horn to sprout, a lamp to shine  
for my anointed as a sign.  
His enemies I clothe with shame,  
But him I crown with lustrous fame."

**BREAD OF LIFE:** (John 6:32) Then Jesus said to them, Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

**CHIEF SHEPHERD:** (1 Peter 5:4) And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.

**CHRIST OF GOD:** (Luke 9:20) He said to them, But who do you say that I am? Peter answered and said, The Christ of God.

**CONSOLATION OF ISRAEL:** (Luke 2:25) And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel: and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

**MEDITATION:** “The Consolation of Israel” means the messianic hope. One of the traditional Jewish prayers is “May I see the consolation of Israel.” That prayer was answered for Simeon when he saw Jesus Christ in the temple. He was a man who was led by the Spirit of God, taught by the Word of God, and obedient to the will of God, and therefore he was privileged to see the salvation of God. How important it is for people to see God's salvation, Jesus Christ, before they see death. Simeon's response to seeing Jesus is a worship hymn in which he blesses God for keeping His promise and sending the Messiah. His song is also a missionary hymn as he see's this great salvation going out to the Gentiles! Jesus has restored the glory to Israel and brought the light to the Gentiles so that all people can be saved.

**HYMN 22:1 & 2**

Now let your servant, Lord,  
according to your word,  
depart in exultation:  
now I in peace may rest:  
my eyes have seen at last  
your wonderful salvation.

Lord, you have graciously  
prepared for all to see  
a light for revelation  
to Gentiles far and near,  
and glory bright and clear  
To Israel, your nation.

**CORNERSTONE:** (Psalm 118:22) The stone which the builders rejected has become the Chief Cornerstone.

**COUNSELLOR, WONDERFUL, THE MIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, THE PRINCE OF PEACE:** (Isaiah 9:6) For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

**CREATOR:** (John 1:3) All things were made through Him; and without him nothing was made that was made.

**DAYSPRING:** (Luke 1:78) Through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us.

**DELIVERER:** (Romans 11:26) And so all Israel will be saved: as it is written, “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;”

**DESIRE OF THE NATIONS:** (Haggai 2:7) And I will shake all nations, and they shall come to the Desire of All Nations, and I will fill this temple with glory, says the LORD of hosts.

**DOOR:** (John 10:7) Then Jesus said to them again, Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.

**ELECT OF GOD:** (Isaiah 42:1) Behold my servant, whom I uphold; my Elect One in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him: he will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.

**FAITHFUL WITNESS, FIRST BORN:** (Revelation 1:5) And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first born from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To him who loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

**FIRST AND LAST:** (Revelation 1:17) And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.

**FORERUNNER:** (Hebrews 6:20) Where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

**GLORY OF THE LORD:** (Isaiah 40:5) The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

**GOOD SHEPHERD:** (John 10:14-15) I am the good shepherd: and I know my sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.

**MEDITATION:** As the great Shepherd of the flock, Christ laid down His life for the sheep and today calls these sheep through His Word – the word of the gospel to which we may listen every Sunday. This is how Christ gathers His flock – the church chosen to everlasting life. By dying for us, He obtained the right to gather the church from the Father. Adam and Eve were the first members of the church chosen for everlasting life. From then on, Christ continued to gather His church throughout the entire time of the Old Testament. He did so in the time of Enoch when men began to call upon the name of the Lord. He saved His elect in the ark. He was the One who called Abram from Ur of the Chaldeans.

Yet when the time had fully come and the Word became flesh, a new period started. The bed through which Christ's church gathering work ran, widened. Not straight away, since the Lord Jesus had come to redeem the lost sheep of the house of Israel first. Yet when He died, the dividing wall between Jews and Gentiles came down, which meant that now people are called from every tribe, tongue and nation.

This is how Christ gathers a church to Himself. He has done so from the beginning of the world, and He will do so until the last of God's elect has entered the sheepfold.

**HYMN 56:1-4**

Loving Shepherd of thy sheep,  
all thy lambs in safety keep;  
nothing can thy power with-stand,  
none can pluck them from thy hand.

May they praise thee every day,  
gladly all thy will obey;  
like thy blessed ones above,  
Happy in thy precious love.

Loving Shepherd, ever near,  
teach thy lambs thy voice to hear;  
suffer not their steps to stray  
from the straight and narrow way.

Where thou leadest may they go,  
walking in thy steps below;  
then, before thy Father's throne,  
Saviour, claim them for thine own.

**GREAT HIGH PRIEST:** (Hebrews 4:14) Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

**HEAD OF THE CHURCH:** (Ephesians 1:22) And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church.

**HEIR OF ALL THINGS:** (Hebrews 1:2) Has in these last days spoken to us by his Son, whom he has appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the worlds.

**HOLY SERVANT:** (Acts 4:27) For truly against Your Holy Servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together

**HOLY ONE OF GOD:** (Mark 1:24) Saying, Let us alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are - the Holy One of God!

**HORN OF SALVATION:** (Luke 1:69) And has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David.

**I AM:** (John 8:58) Jesus said unto them, Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.

**IMAGE OF GOD:** (2 Corinthians 4:4) Whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ Jesus, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

**IMMANUEL:** (Matthew 1:22,23) So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us".

**MEDITATION:** Immanuel – God with us! God is near to His people. This promise stands from age to age unbroken, not because of us, but because of God's faithfulness.

In a dream, an angel tells Joseph to call the child to be born Jesus, "for he will save his people from their sin." This name was also a fulfillment of repeated promises given by the Old Testament prophets. This child to be born would bring about redemption, not just from the occasional enemy, but He would take away the cause of all war and oppression, which is sin. The gospel of Christmas guarantees the fulfillment of the Immanuel promise: God with us! In the hour that God became man, the riches of this promise became known as never before. When celebrating Christmas, we rejoice that the fulfillment of the promise 'God with us' is founded on the birth of Jesus Christ, who became man to reconcile sinners with God.

**HYMN 16:1 & 3**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's stem,  
regard thine own and rescue them;  
from depths of hell thy people save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

**JESUS:** (Matthew 1:21) And she will bring forth a son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.

**JUDGE OF ISRAEL:** (Micah 5:1) Now gather yourself in troops, O daughter of troops: He has laid siege against us: they will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek.

**THE JUST ONE:** (Acts 7:52) Which of the prophets have did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One; of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers:

**KING:** (Zechariah 9:9) Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.

**KING OF THE JEWS:** (Matthew 2:2)"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.

**MEDITATION:** “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?” asked the unexpected visitors from the East who appeared on Herod’s doorstep. “For we saw His star in the East and have come to worship Him”. It’s likely that the wise men also thought of the Jewish Messiah as a future political ruler, because they presented Jesus’ parents with expensive gifts fit for a King. Later in Jesus’ life, the gospels tell of Mary pouring expensive ointment over the head and feet of Jesus, using her hair to anoint Him. This show of respect and adoration reflected the anointed nature of Jesus as God’s chosen King.

And yet the Jews rejected their King and allowed Him to be crucified. On the cross a sign was placed “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews”. The Jews wanted the sign taken down claiming that He wasn’t their King, a false and blasphemous claim worthy of death. But through His sacrifice, Jesus would forge a path to redemption and the forgiveness of sin once and for all. One day those who have rejected God as King and Jesus as the Messiah will know that Christ is King.

**PSALM 2:1 & 4**

Why do the restless nations madly rage?  
What haughty schemes are they in vain contriving?  
The kings and rulers of the earth engage  
In rash attempts to plot their empty striving.  
They stand prepared, they all conspire together  
against the Lord and his anointed King.  
“let us,” they say, “tear loose and break their fetters,  
cast off their chains, their shackles from us fling.”

Take heed, O rulers of the earth, and hear  
Be wise, O kings and let his edict warn you.  
Rejoice with trembling; serve the Lord with fear.  
Now kiss the Son, lest he in fury scorn you,  
lest in his wrath the Lord cause you to perish,  
For quickly kindled is his anger’s blaze.  
But all who trust in him the Lord will cherish;  
he will defend and bless them all their days.

**KING OF KINGS, LORD OF LORDS:** (1 Timothy 6:15) Which He will manifest in His own time, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords.

**KING OF SAINTS:** (Revelation 15:3) And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are Your works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints.

**LAWGIVER:** (Isaiah 33:22) For the LORD is our Judge, the LORD is our Lawgiver, the LORD is our King; he will save us.

**LAMB:** (Revelation 13:8) All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

**LAMB OF GOD:** (John 1:29) The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

**LEADER AND COMMANDER:** (Isaiah 55:4) Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people, a leader and commander for the people.

**THE LIFE:** (John 14:6) Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.

**LIGHT OF THE WORLD:** (John 8:12) Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

**MEDITATION:** Our Lord is the Light of the World. John’s Gospel records Jesus’ self-revelation. It’s two main sections are sometimes called the “Book of Signs” (chapters 1-12), in which He points to His own identity, and the “Book of Glory” (chapters 13-21), in which He reveals His fellowship with the Father and the Spirit, and then is glorified through His death, resurrection and ascension.

Throughout both sections, the Lord is light shining into the world's darkness.

In the Book of Signs, Jesus is seen to illumine and expose the darkness that forms the atmosphere in which humanity lives. Thus, Nicodemus, despite his many good qualities, comes to Jesus 'by night'. Jesus' conversation with him makes clear that he is spiritually in the dark.

In the Book of Glory, Christ's light continues to shine despite the efforts of the powers of darkness to extinguish it. Again, significantly, when Judas leaves the gathering in the upper room to betray Jesus, 'it was night'.

Into this world in which "men loved darkness rather than light" the Light of the World comes to unmask and to judge sin and to reveal God. Like John the Baptist, the Law and the Prophets were only witnesses to the Light; Jesus is the Light itself. That is why, for John, the events, imagery, and language of the Old Testament are like a shadow cast backward into history by Christ, the Light of the World.

#### **HYMN 19:1 & 2**

The people who in darkness walked  
have seen a glorious light;  
now day has dawned for those who dwelt  
in death's surrounding night.  
To hail you, Sun of Righteousness,  
they with rejoicing come  
as when with joy they share the spoil  
or bear the harvest home.

For unto us a Child is born,  
to us a Son is given,  
and on his shoulders he shall bear  
All power in earth and heaven.  
The Wonderful, the Counsellor,  
the Mighty God is he;  
eternal Father, Prince of Peace  
His holy name shall be.

#### **INTERVAL**

#### **HYMN 68:1**

Jesus is our sure defence.  
Why should we then fear or waver?  
All our hope and confidence  
rests on him, the risen Saviour.  
Even in our darkest hour  
he will shield us with his power.

**LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH:** (Revelation 5:5) But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll, and to loose its seven seals.

**LORD OF ALL:** (Acts 10:36) The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ - He is Lord of all.

**LORD OF GLORY:** (1 Corinthians 2:8) Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

**LORD OF OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS:** (Jeremiah 23:6) In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely: and this is His name by which He will be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

**MAN OF SORROWS:** (Isaiah 53:3) He is despised and rejected of men. A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

**MEDIATOR:** (1 Timothy 2:5) For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus;

**MESSENGER OF THE COVENANT:** (Malachi 3:1) Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to his temple, even the Messenger of the Covenant, in whom you delight: Behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

**MESSIAH:** (Daniel 9:25) Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there shall be seven weeks, and sixty two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.  
(John 1:41) He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, We have found the Messiah, which is, translated, the Christ.

**MORNING STAR:** (Revelation 22:16) I Jesus have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the Bright and Morning star.

**NAZARENE:** (Matthew 2:23) And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene".

**ONLY BEGOTTEN SON:** (Matthew 16:16) Simon Peter answered and said "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

**MEDITATION:** Throughout Christ's public ministry on earth, people wondered who He was. In Matthew 16 Jesus asks His disciples this question: "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am? And "Who do you say that I am?". In response Simon Peter answers, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." This confession of the apostle Peter is central to all preaching of the gospel: Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God. Was it really necessary for our salvation that Jesus is the Son of God? We could only be saved by the natural Son of God, who at the same time is also God Himself. Otherwise we would still be lost. It is of crucial importance to uphold this confession, without compromising. After all, no one will find salvation unless he confesses that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God. Let us hold fast to this confession without wavering.

**HYMN 20:1 & 2**

A great and mighty wonder  
upon the earth was done  
When Mary, virgin mother,  
gave birth to God's own Son.  
Repeat the song again:  
"To God on high the glory,  
and peace on earth to men!"

The Word became incarnate -  
made flesh, yet very God.  
The angels hailed his coming  
With songs o'er fields abroad.  
Repeat the song again:  
"To God on high the glory,  
and peace on earth to men!"

**OUR PASSOVER:** (1 Corinthians 5:7) Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover was sacrificed for us:

**PRINCE OF LIFE:** (Acts 3:15) And killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead; of which we are witnesses.

**PROPHET:** (Luke 24:19) And he said to them, What things? So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:  
(Acts 3:22) For Moses truly said to the fathers, "The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren, Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you."

**REDEEMER:** (Job 19:25) For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth:



**RESURRECTION AND LIFE:** (John 11:25) Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life: He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live.

**ROCK:** (1 Corinthians 10:4) And all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them and that Rock was Christ.

**ROOT OF DAVID:** (Revelation 22:16) I Jesus have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the offspring of David, the bright and morning star.

**SAVIOUR:** (Luke 2:11) For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

**SEED OF WOMAN:** (Genesis 3:15) And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

**SHEPHERD AND OVERSEER OF SOULS:** (1 Peter 2:25) For you were like sheep going astray; but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

**SHILOH:** (Genesis 49:10) The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

**SON OF THE BLESSED:** (Mark 14:61) But he kept silent and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and saying to him, Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?

**SON OF DAVID:** (Matthew 1:1) The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.

**SON OF GOD:** (Philippians 2:6,7) Though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

**MEDITATION:** Imagine a wise king, educated in law, medicine, and history, dressed in royal robes and a crown, and sitting on a throne. Everyone who comes before him bows low. Now picture a day when a deadly plague infects the people of his country. No doctor can find a cure for it; in fact, they too are dying. Out of love for his people, the king leaves his throne, take off his crown, replaces his royal robes with a simple cloak, collects his doctor's bag, and goes out to heal his people. This is what King Jesus did for us.

Forever, the Son of God had lived in perfect love with the Father and the Holy Spirit. The angels worshiped the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit before the throne of God in a light-filled, joy-filled heaven. But one day, as sin spread like a disease through the earth, the glorious Son of God stepped off His throne. He set aside His glory in obedience to His Father's request to save His people. Because He loved the Father and His people, the Son of God humbled Himself, took a body like ours, and brought healing to our sin-sick world.

#### **HYMN 23:1,2 & 3**

Let us of Christ, our Lord and Saviour sing,  
for, through God's equal, through eternal King,  
he did not to his rightful glory cling.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Himself he emptied, that he us might save;  
himself for us, God's chosen ones, he gave,  
And, born as man, our Lord became a slave.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

He bore the weakness of our human frame  
and he obedient unto death became,  
for on a cross he died, in bitter shame.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

**SON OF THE HIGHEST:** (Luke 1:32) He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest:  
and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David:

**SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS:** (Malachi 4:2) But to you who fear My name the Sun of Righteousness  
shall arise with healing in His wings; and you shall go out, and grow fat like stall-fed calves.

**TRUE LIGHT:** (John 1:9) That was the true Light, which gives light to every man coming into the  
world.

**TRUE VINE:** (John 15:1) I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.

**TRUTH:** (John 1:14) And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory,  
the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

**WITNESS:** (Isaiah 55:4) Indeed, I have given him as a witness to the people, a leader and  
commander for the people.

**WORD:** (John 1:1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was  
God.

**WORD OF GOD:** (Revelation 19:13) He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood: and his name is  
called The Word of God.

**MEDITATION:** God has set us apart and is making us beautiful. We still sin but in our struggle God  
is always at work making us more and more like Jesus. The more we learn about Jesus the more we  
see just how much we need His help if we are going to think, talk and act like Him. We can only  
grow like Him through our dependence on him for help every day.

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every  
weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,  
looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. (Hebrews 12:1-2a)

#### **HYMN 43:1-4**

Lo, what a cloud of witnesses  
encompass us around!  
Men once like us with sufferings tried,  
but now with glory crowned.

They reached the finish of the course  
And thus obtained the rest.  
We too – for God fulfils his word -  
Shall be with victory blest.

Let us then full of confidence  
run to complete the race  
and put off sin and every weight  
which could slow down our pace.

We look to Jesus ever more  
than to all those around;  
in him, the Author of our faith,  
Its Finisher is found.

#### **PRAYER**



