

2nd Sunday of Advent  
December 3, 2023



[www.riverofhopehutchinson.org](http://www.riverofhopehutchinson.org)

Worship on Facebook Premiere, Sundays at 10:30am

Gathering

Prelude

Opening Song – “Build Up”

Isaiah 57, 58

**BUILD UP**Larry Olson  
Hans Peterson

Build up, pre - pare the way. Re - move the ob -

struc - tions from my peo - ple's way. Build up, pre -

pare the way. God is near, God is here

to - day. *3rd time to Coda*

Break the chains of in - jus - tice. Let the op -

God sees all our de - struc - tion; how we get

pressed go in love's free. way. Share our homes with the home -

Still God comes and meets

less us and our bread with the hun - gry.

*Coda* with a stead - y, healing embrace.

Then your light will break forth like the dawn

and your heal - ing

will break in - to song.

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Welcome \* Welcome Pads \* Post it Notes \*

*Wherever you are on your journey of faith, we believe God meets you right where you are, and you are welcome here.*

## Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the community of the Holy Spirit is with you all. **And also with you.**

## Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,  
who alone does wondrous things.

**Blessed be God's name forever.  
Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.  
Let us confront our sins,  
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of new beginnings,

**we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.  
We have strayed from your paths.  
We prepare for war instead of peace.  
We dishonor one another and your creation.  
Purify us with your refining fire  
and set us again on your way of love,  
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,  
and welcome your coming among us.  
Amen.**

People of God,  
 a new thing is growing in our midst,  
 a tender branch,  
 a living sign.  
 By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.  
 You have put on ✝ Christ,  
 and your sins have been washed away.  
 Rejoice in the way of the Lord.  
**Amen.**

### Prayer of the Day

*Let us Pray,*

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**  
**Amen.**

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

God Emmanuel, God-with-us, yet we still pray for you to come.  
 Stir up your power and come.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Lead us out of the fire and into life in you.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Lead us into new life in you.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Show us the way back to the beginning we have in you.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

In this season of waiting, come, creep into our hearts and prepare them for you.

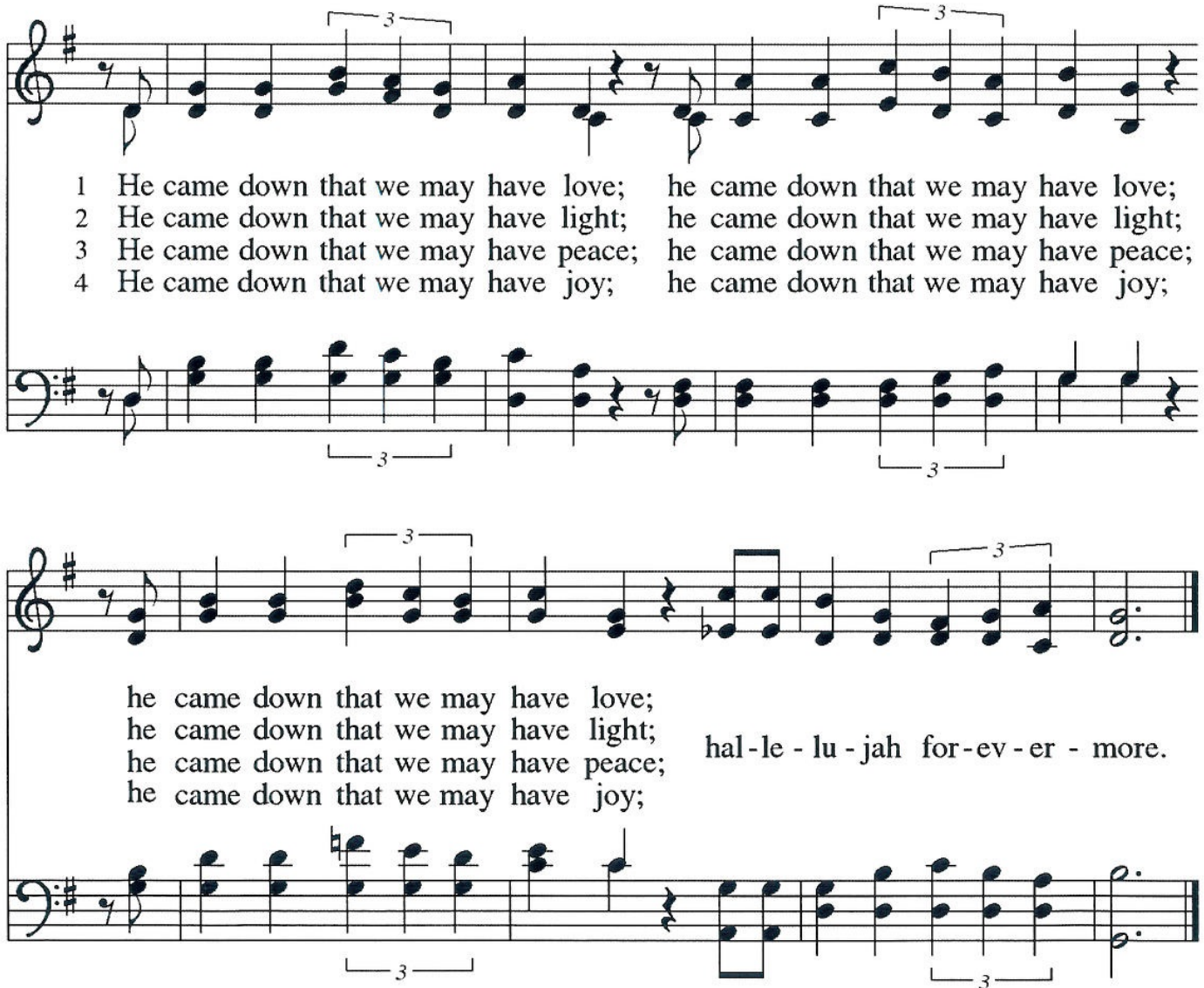
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Amen.**

# Song: He Came Down (Vs. 1)

As the congregation sings, the first and second candle on the Advent Wreath is lit.

## He Came Down



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;  
 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;  
 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;  
 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;  
 he came down that we may have light;  
 he came down that we may have peace; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.  
 he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

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## Greet Someone New

*Music to Bring Us Back Together: Vs 1 of "He Came Down"*

## Children's Time

### THE STORY

(Reader): Our story and God's story continues today with two readings. First, a reading from Isaiah chapter 40 verses 1-11.

(Reader): Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her

that she has served her term,

that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

**(Side 1): "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

**(Side 2): Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;**

(Reader): the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"  
 And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
 All people are grass,  
     their constancy is like the flower of the field.  
 The grass withers, the flower fades,  
     when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;  
     surely the people are grass.  
 The grass withers, the flower fades;  
     but the word of our God will stand forever.  
 Get you up to a high mountain,  
     O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
 lift up your voice with strength,  
     O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
     lift it up, do not fear;  
 say to the cities of Judah,  
     "Here is your God!"  
 See, the Lord GOD comes with might,  
     and his arm rules for him;  
 his reward is with him,  
     and his recompense before him.

**(ALL): He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
         he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
         and carry them in his bosom,  
         and gently lead the mother sheep.**

(Reader): Our second reading comes from the Gospel of Mark chapter 1 verses 1-8.

Isaiah 40:8

## PREPARE THE WAY

Hans Peterson

(guitar: capo 2)

The musical score is written for guitar with a capo at the 2nd fret. It consists of seven staves of music in E major (four sharps). The lyrics are: "Pre - pare the way, pre - pare the way, of the Lord. The grass it with - ers and the flow - ers fall but the word of our Lord stands for - ev - er. Pre - pare the way, pre - pare the way of the Lord." The guitar chords are indicated above the staff: E(D), E/G#(D/F#), Bsus(Asus), Bsus4(Asus), E(D), E/G#(D/F#), Bsus(Asus), Asus2(G), A(G), C#m(Bm), Bsus(Asus), B(A), E(D), E/G#(D/F#), A(G), Bsus(Asus), B(A), E(D), E/G#(D/F#), Bsus(Asus), E, E/G#, Bsus4, E, E/G#, Bsus4, Asus2(G), E/B(D), B(A), and E(D).

Pre - pare the way, pre -

pare the way, pre - pare the way of the Lord.

The grass it with - ers and the

flow - ers fall but the word of our Lord stands for -

ev - er. Pre - pare the way, pre -

pare the way, pre - pare the way of the Lord.

Asus2(G) E/B(D) B(A) E(D)



(Reader): The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

**(Side 1): 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,' "**

(Reader): John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed,

**(Side 2): "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals.**

**(ALL): I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."**

(Reader): Stay tuned for the continuing saga that is our story and God's story.

**(ALL): Thanks be to God.**

Sermon – Pastor Andy Evenson

Song of the Day – "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" (Vs. 1, 3, 6)

# O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?  
 2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.  
 3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.  
 4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.  
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
 who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.

Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast  
 A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high  
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
 All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
 that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.  
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.  
 send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

6. Yet need not toil nor languish nor ponder day and night,  
 How in the midst of anguish you draw Him by your might.  
 He comes, he comes all willing, moved by his love alone,  
 Your woes and troubles stilling; for all to Him are known.

## Prayers for the World

*Together we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. Each petition will close with the words: God, who is mercy:*

*Congregational response: “**Hear our prayer.**”*

## Offering

**Worship Leader:** *Thank you for your continued generosity and for all the ways you support God’s ministry here at River of Hope. You can contact the church office and sign up for simply giving or give online or drop a check off at the church office. The watering can this month is for Operation Hope.*

## Offering Song – “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

## Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath  
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as  
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4

Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

# The Feast

Setting the Table *the children lead us as we sing together:*

O Come Lord Jesus be our Guest and let these gifts to us be blest. All praise to God who is our bread, may all the world be clothed and fed.

## Thanksgiving at the Table

We gather as a community, around this table of plenty, trusting in the Spirit to nourish us as we share God's love with our neighbors.

The Lord is with you **And also with you**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

As we gather in this place, we remember, that in the night when Jesus was betrayed by his best friends, he took bread. He blessed it and broke it and gave it to these same friends saying, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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. Forgive us our trespasses  
 as we forgive those  
 who trespass against us.  
 Lead us not into temptation  
 but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom,  
 and the power,  
 and the glory  
 forever and forever. Amen.**

This is Christ's table. It's a table of love and welcome. It's a table of fellowship with the poor and communion with the earth.

So, come, those of you with great faith and those of you who wish you had more. Come, those of you who have tried to follow Jesus and those of you who have failed. Come, those of you who depend on this meal for your lives, and those of you for whom it is a strange thing.

(Leader): The gifts of God are...

**(ALL): Free**

(Leader): Free indeed. And all are welcome to receive the sacrament.

Communion Songs "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry"  
 and "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

## On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
 way for God with - in, and let us all our  
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite  
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

## 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: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

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## Blessing after Communion

Now may the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

## Prayer after Communion

Blessed be your name, O God,  
for we have feasted on your Word,  
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.  
Strengthened by this food,  
send us to gather the world to your banquet,  
where none are left out and all are satisfied.  
In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen**

# The Sending

Why does our church exist? What is our purpose?

**We go out to transform lives through Jesus Christ.**

Purpose Sightings:

**MILESTONES!** Sing "Light of the World" verse 1

*It's time for sharing milestones - a time where we join together as a community to share the big, small, good, and hard milestones in our life.*

# LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Cathy Pino

E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>

You are the light \_\_\_\_\_ of the world. \_\_\_\_\_  
 You are a cit - y on a hill. \_\_\_\_\_  
 You are a can - dle in the dark. \_\_\_\_\_

You are the light  
 You are a cit -  
 You are a can \_\_\_\_\_

6 A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup><sub>sus4</sub> B<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ of the world \_\_\_\_\_  
 - - y on a hill \_\_\_\_\_  
 - dle in the dark \_\_\_\_\_

so shine, shine, shine,  
 so shine, shine, shine,  
 so shine, shine, shine,

11 E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>/D C<sup>m</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>

shine where you are. \_\_\_\_\_  
 shine where you are. \_\_\_\_\_  
 shine where you are. \_\_\_\_\_

You are the light \_\_\_\_\_ of the world. \_\_\_\_\_  
 You are a cit - y on a hill. \_\_\_\_\_  
 You are a can - dle in the dark. \_\_\_\_\_

Sung Benediction

Sending Song: "Bethlehem Highway"

# BETHLEHEM HIGHWAY

David Lee Brown  
James Hersch

$\text{♩} = 110$

G C G C D G

There is hope on Bethlehem high-way for the ones who will journey there. And the

hope is the child in a man-ger bringing us love be-yond compare. It's a lifeline for the need-  
Let the angels go be-fore

*Last time to*  $\Phi$

G C G C D G C

y. It's— sight— to those who can't see. It's a free-dom for the faith-  
us. Let the dark-ness be-come— light. Now the Sav-ior lives a-mong

G C G C

ful in a Child of proph-e-cy. There is com-pare.  
us. Now— truth has come to life.

G Am7 D  $\Phi$  D G

Go in peace – serve the Lord!     **Thanks be to God**

## Music to Send You Out

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## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
 2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;




dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
 Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835



## 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.  
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## Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;  
 2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,  
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;  
 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand  
 Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,  
 as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,  
 veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom-age to de - mand.  
 he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.  
 comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark-ness clears a - way.  
 "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.  
 Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.