

## Advent Wreath Lighting

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord, and  
all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. — Pre - God.

The musical score is written in 6/8 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of two staves. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The second line of the second staff includes two first endings, labeled '1.' and '2.', which lead to a double bar line.

### Leader:

Heavenly Father,  
you have created a universe of light:  
forgive us when we return to darkness.  
Lord, have mercy.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

### Leader:

Lord Jesus,  
you are the light of the world:  
cleanse and heal our blinded sight.  
Christ, have mercy.

**People: Christ, have mercy.**

### Leader:

Holy Spirit,  
you give us light in our hearts:  
renew us in faith and love.  
Lord, have mercy.

**People: Lord, have mercy.**

### Leader:

O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples;  
before you kings will shut their mouths,  
to you the nations will make their prayer:

**People: Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.**

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord, and  
all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. — Pre - God.

This musical score is identical to the one above, featuring a melody in 6/8 time with two flats in the key signature. It includes two first endings for the second line of the second staff.

## **Opening Hymn: Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending**

1 Lo! he comes with clouds descending,  
once for our salvation slain;  
thousand, thousand saints attending  
swell the triumph of his train:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

2 Every eye shall now behold him,  
robed in dreadful majesty;  
those who set at nought and sold him,  
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,  
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,  
deeply wailing,  
shall the true Messiah see.

3 Those dear tokens of his passion  
still his dazzling body bears,  
cause of endless exultation  
to his ransomed worshipers;  
with what rapture, with what rapture,  
with what rapture,  
gaze we on those glorious scars!

4 Yea, amen! let all adore thee,  
high on thine eternal throne;  
Savior, take the power and glory;  
claim the kingdom for thine own:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

**Officiant:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you

**Officiant:** Let us pray

**Collect:** 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.**

**Children's Sermon**

## **Jeremiah 33:14-16**

**Lector:** A reading from Jeremiah

*pause*

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

*Pause*

**Lector:** The word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

## **Psalm 25:1-9**

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, \*  
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness \*  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

# 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

**Lector:** A reading from First Thessalonians

*pause*

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints..

*Pause*

**Lector:** The word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

## Sequence

All \_\_\_\_\_ night, (All night) I would - n't give up.

All \_\_\_\_\_ night, (All night) I would - n't let go.

All \_\_\_\_\_ night, (All night) I just — held on.

I called — on the Lord all night long and I wouldn't — let go un-til he

blessed my soul. I'm a wit - ness that he came through.

**Luke 21:25-36**

**Lector:** The holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke

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

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

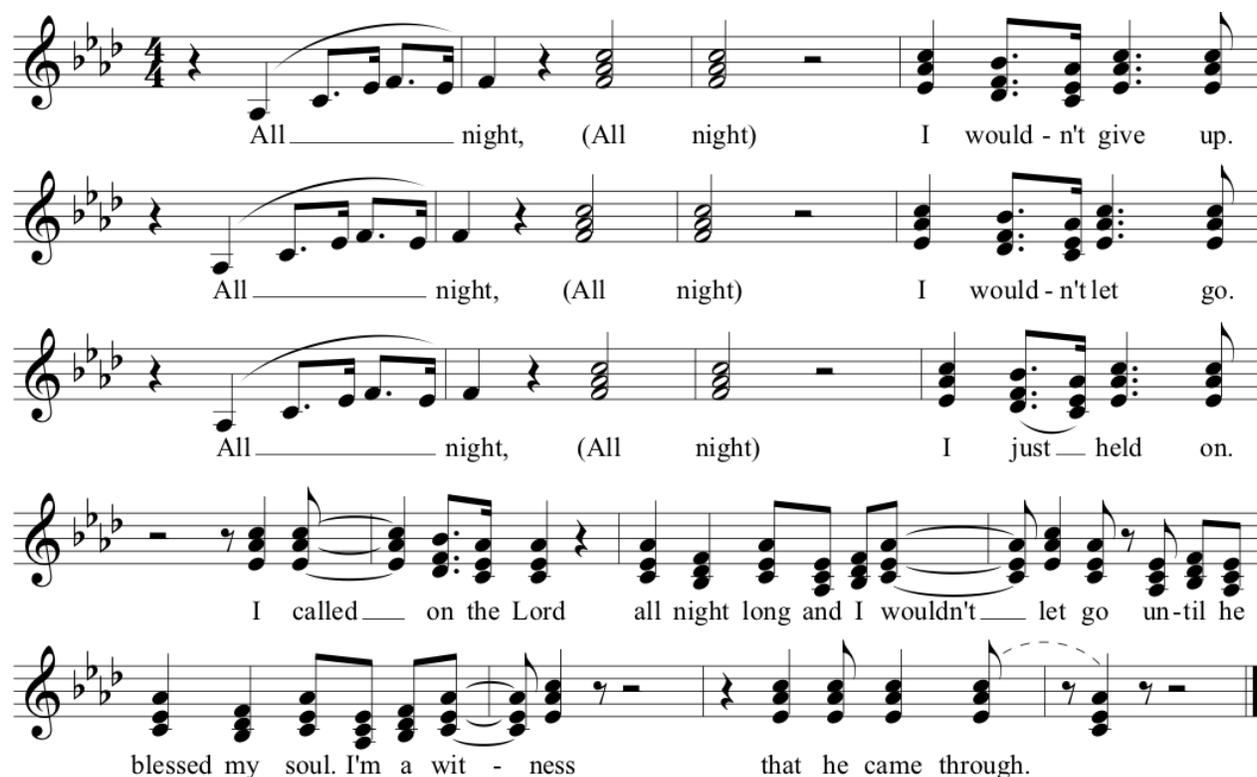
Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

**Officiant:** The Gospel of the Lord

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

## Repeated Sequence



All \_\_\_\_\_ night, (All night) I would - n't give up.  
All \_\_\_\_\_ night, (All night) I would - n't let go.  
All \_\_\_\_\_ night, (All night) I just — held on.  
I called — on the Lord all night long and I wouldn't — let go un-til he  
blessed my soul. I'm a wit - ness that he came through.

## Sermon

### The Nicene Creed

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**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.

## **Prayer Concerns and Thanksgivings**

### **Prayers of the People**

In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, prepare our hearts to welcome you.  
Help us to, like Joseph, choose costly love over respectability. Fill us with Mary's grace that come what may, our response will be:

**Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.**

O God, one day your house will be established and your joy shall reign. We pray for the church, that we might be an early harbinger of you sovereignty over all the earth.

**Come Lord Jesus.**

O God our judge, we pray for our nation and all nations. May our endless wars cease, may we care for our planet and the most vulnerable among us. O Prince of Peace

**May your reign begin in us.**

O God our mother, we pray that you would heal all injuries and comfort all grief. We especially pray for...

*Intercessions shared here*

Healer of the broken hearted

**Have mercy upon us.**

In the fullness of time, O God, you sent your son to be born of our sister Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God with Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer. Come Lord Jesus,

**We rest our hope on you.**

**Officiant**

O Christ, hear our prayers, restore us, and show us the glorious light of your countenance, that we might be saved. Come Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

**Confession** (*You are welcomed to stand or to kneel*)

**Officiant:** 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.**

**Absolution****The Peace****Announcements****Birthday Prayer**

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant N. as s/he begins another year. Grant that s/he may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen his trust in your goodness all the days of her/ his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Anniversary Prayer**

O God, be with N. and N., as they celebrate another year together. Deepen their love for each other, grant them joy, and make their life together a blessing to all, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Offertory Anthem:** In the Bleak Midwinter

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**Officiant:** The Lord be with you.

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

**Officiant:** Lift up your hearts.

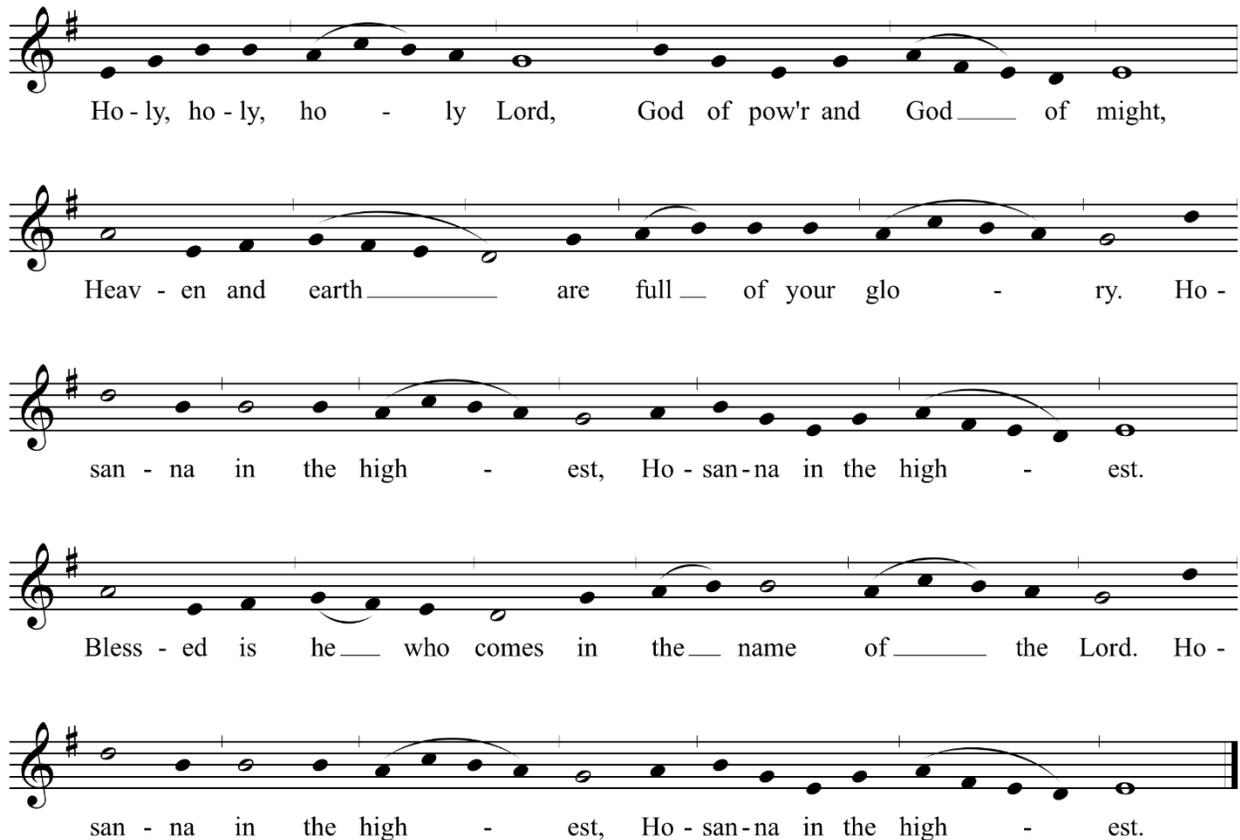
**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Officiant:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Officiant:** All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might,  
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, 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, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Officiant:** Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

**People:** Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

**Officiant:** We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

**People:** After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

**Officiant:** And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ.

**People & Officiant:**  
**Dying you destroyed our death,**  
**Rising you restored our life.**  
**Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

**Officiant:** Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

**People: Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.**

**Officiant:** Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

**People: Blessed are you now and forever. Amen.**

**Officiant:** And so, we pray the prayer your son taught us to pray.

**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.**  
**Save us from the time of trial,**  
**and deliver us from evil.**  
**For the kingdom, the power,**  
**and the glory are yours,**  
**now and for ever. Amen.**

**Fraction**

**Officiant:** Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## Agnus Dei

Je - sus, Lamb of God, \_\_\_\_\_ you take a - way the sins\_\_ of the

world, Have mer - cy on \_\_\_\_\_ us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, \_\_\_\_\_ you take a - way the sins\_\_ of the

world, Have mer - cy on \_\_\_\_\_ us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, \_\_\_\_\_ you take a - way the sins of the world,

Grant \_\_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ peace.

## Invitation to Communion

### Communion Hymn: Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!

## **Post Communion Prayer**

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen**

## **Blessing**

**Closing Hymn: Jesus, the Light of the World**

Joyful, all ye nations, rise.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Join the triumph of the skies.  
Jesus, the light of the world.

*Refrain:*

We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.  
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.  
Oh, shine all around us by day and by night.  
Jesus, the light of the world.

Christ, by highest heav'n adored.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Jesus, the light of the world. *[Refrain]*

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace.  
Jesus, the light of the world.  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Jesus, the light of the world. *[Refrain]*

## **Dismissal**

Alleluia! Let us go forth to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**