

729 Son of God, Eternal Savior

CW 729

1 Son of God, eternal Savior,
source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us,
hallows all our human race,
you our head, who, throned in glory,
for your own will ever plead:
fill us with your love and pity,
heal our wrongs and help our need.

2 Bind us all as one together
in your Church's sacred fold,
weak and healthy, poor and wealthy,
sad and joyful, young and old.

Is there want or pain or sorrow?

Make us all the burden share.

Are there spirits crushed and broken?

Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.

3 As you, Lord, have lived for others,
so may we for others live.

Freely have your gifts been granted;
freely may your servants give.

Yours the gold and yours the silver,
yours the wealth of land and sea;

we but stewards of your bounty
held in solemn trust will be.

4 Son of God, eternal Savior,
source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
hallows all our human race,
by your praying, by your willing
that your people should be one,
grant, O grant our hope's fruition:
here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset T. C. Lowry, 1855–1932, abr., alt.
Text: Public domain

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the
Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

CW 188

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and
the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts,
words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and
forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a
sinner.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us.
He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as
the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his
authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the
Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 190

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us
pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191

Refrain: Glory to God in the highest, glory to God, and peace to his people on earth, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have

mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. *Refrain*

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Be seated)

The whole group of believers was one in heart and soul. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they held everything in common. ³³The apostles continued to testify about the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ with great power, and abundant grace was on all of them. ³⁴There was not a needy person among them. For from time to time those who were owners of lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds received from what was sold, ³⁵and laid it at the apostles' feet. It was distributed to each one according to what anyone needed.

³⁶Joseph, who was called Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated “son of encouragement”), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, ³⁷sold a field that belonged to him. He brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

63 Lord, You Are My Hope and Stay

Psalm 63

Refrain

Lord, you are my hope and stay; I will ever sing your praise.

You, God, / are my God,

earnestly I / seek you;

I thirst for you,

my whole being / longs for you,

in a dry and parched land

where there is no / water.

I have seen you in the sanctu- / ary

and beheld your power and your / glory. *Refrain*

Because your love is bet- / ter than life,

my lips will glori- / fy you.

I will praise you as long / as I live,

and in your name I will lift / up my hands.

Because you / are my help,

I sing in the shadow / of your wings.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

**and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

Text: Hal H. Hopson

Tune: Hal H. Hopson

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Second Reading

1 John 3:18–24

Dear children, let us love not only with word or with our tongue, but also in action and truth.

¹⁹This is how we know that we are of the truth and how we will set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰If our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God. ²²We also receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commands and do what is pleasing in his sight.

²³This then is his command: that we believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and that we love one another just as he commanded us. ²⁴The one who keeps his commands remains in God and God in him. This is how we know that he remains in us: We know it from the Spirit, whom he has given to us.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

Gospel Acclamation

John 15:5

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

John 15:1–8

¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

²Every branch in me that does not bear fruit, he is going to cut off. And he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, so that it will bear more fruit.

³“You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, and I am going to remain in you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Likewise, you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵“I am the Vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him is the one who bears much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers. Such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this: that you continue to bear much fruit and prove to be my disciples.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

(Be seated)

469 Welcome, Happy Morning

CW 469

1 “Welcome, happy morning!”

age to age shall say;

“Hell today is vanquished;

heav’n is won today!”

Lo, the dead is living,

God forevermore!

Him, their true Creator,
all his works adore. (Refrain)

Ref “Welcome, happy morning!”
age to age shall say;
“Hell today is vanquished;
heav’n is won today!”

2 Maker and Redeemer,
life and health of all,
God from heav’n beholding
human nature’s fall,
of the Father’s Godhead
you, the only Son,
mankind to deliver
manhood did put on. (Refrain)

3 Source of all things living,
you came down to die,
plumbed the depths of hell to
raise us up on high.
Come, then, true and faithful,
come, fulfill your word;

this is your third morning—

rise, O buried Lord. (Refrain)

4 Free the souls long prisoned,

bound with Satan's chain;

all that now is fallen

raise to life again.

Show your face in brightness;

shine in ev'ry land

as in Eden's garden

when the world began. (Refrain)

Text: tr. John Ellerton, 1826–1893, alt.; Venantius Fortunatus, c. 530–609, abr.

Text: Public domain

Sermon

I John 3: 18-24

Easter Confidence

I. God is greater than our hearts (18-20)

II. God answers our prayers (21-22)

III. God remains in us (23-24)

(Stand)

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

**and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father Almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and
the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Be seated)

Prayer of the Church

Offering

450 The Day of Resurrection

CW 450

- 1 The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad,
the passover of gladness,
the passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our Christ has brought us over
with hymns of victory.
- 2 Our hearts be pure from evil
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light
and, list'ning to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.
- 3 Now let the heav'ns be joyful,
let earth her song begin,
let all the world keep triumph
and all that is therein.
Let all things, seen and unseen,

their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen,
our joy that has no end.

Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754
Text: Public domain

Lord's Prayer

**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
forever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

726 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living

CW 726

1 Love in Christ is strong and living,
binding faithful hearts in one;
love in Christ is true and giving,
may his will in us be done.

2 Love is patient and forbearing,
clothed in Christ's humility,
gentle, selfless, kind, and caring,
reaching out in charity.

3 Love in Christ abides forever,
fainting not when ills attend;
love, forgiving and forgiven,
shall endure until life's end.

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