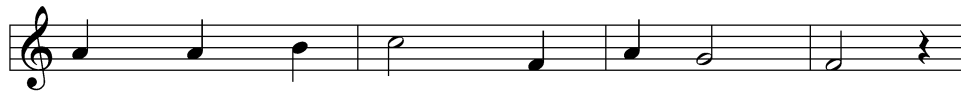


### 355 O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide



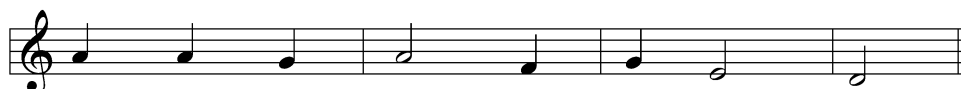
1 O Sav - ior, rend the heav - ens wide;  
 2 O Fa - ther, light from heav - en send;  
 3 O earth, in flow'r - ing bud be seen;  
 4 O Fount of hope, how long, how long?



Come down, come down with might - y stride;  
 As morn - ing dew, O Son, de - scend.  
 Clothe hill and dale in garb of green.  
 When will You come with com - fort strong?



Un - lock the gates, the doors break down;  
 Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring:  
 Bring forth, O earth, a blos - som rare,  
 O come, O come, Your throne fore - go;



Un - bar the way to heav - en's crown.  
 To Ja - cob's line rain down the King.  
 Our Sav - ior, sprung from mead - ow fair.  
 Con - sole us in our vale of woe.

5 O Morning Star, O radiant Sun,  
 When will our hearts behold Your dawn?  
 O Sun, arise; without Your light  
 We grope in gloom and dark of night.

6 Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;  
 Grim death looms fierce before our eyes.  
 O come, lead us with mighty hand  
 From exile to our promised land.

7 There shall we all our praises bring  
 And sing to You, our Savior King;  
 There shall we laud You and adore  
 Forever and forevermore.

Text: Friedrich von Spee, 1591–1635; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909–67, alt.  
 Tune: Rheinfeilssisch Deutsches Catholisches Gesangbuch, 1666, Augsburg  
 Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002260  
 Tune: Public domain

*Stand*

### Opening Versicles

**L** This is the day which the Lord has made;  
**C** let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
**L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**L** Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.  
**C** Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.  
**L** Prepare the way of the Lord.  
**C** Make His paths straight.  
**L** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.  
**C** Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.

**L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## Old Testament Cantic

LSB 261

**C** The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.

With joy will you draw water from the wells of salvation.

And you will say in that day:

“Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name,  
make known His deeds among the peoples,  
proclaim that His name is exalted.”

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.

Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously;  
let this be made known in all the earth.

Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitants of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.

*Sit*

## Readings From Holy Scripture

### Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 7:10–14*

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.”  
<sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup>And he said, “Hear then, O house of David!  
Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.  
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Epistle Reading

*Galatians 4:4–5*

<sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Gospel Reading

*Matthew 1:18–25*

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## Responsory

- L** Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.
- C** **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**
- L** He shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
- C** **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**
- L** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- C** **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

*Stand*

## Ten Commandments

- C** You shall have no other gods.  
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.  
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.  
Honor your father and your mother.  
You shall not murder.  
You shall not commit adultery.  
You shall not steal.  
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.  
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.  
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

## Apostles' Creed

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence 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  $\dagger$  everlasting. Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

- C** 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.

*Sit*

### Catechetical Review - The Lord's Prayer

**L** The Introduction.

**C** **Our Father who art in heaven.**

**L** *What does this mean?*

**C** **With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.**

**L** The First Petition

**C** **Hallowed be Thy name.**

**L** What does this mean?

**C** **God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.**

**L** How is God's name kept holy?

**C** **God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!**

### The Second Petition

**L** The Second Petition

**C** **Thy kingdom come.**

**L** What does this mean?

**C** **The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.**

**L** How does God's kingdom come?

**C** **God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.**

### The Third Petition

**L** The Third Petition

**C** **Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**L** What does this mean?

**C** **The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.**

**L** How is God's will done?

**C** **God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.**

### Sermon

### 352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly  
 2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'  
 3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,  
 4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send  
 heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,  
 Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—  
 gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
 Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.  
 Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.  
 Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>5 Bruise for me the serpent's head<br/>             That, set free from doubt and dread,<br/>             I may cling to You in faith,<br/>             Safely kept through life and death.</p> | <p>6 Then when You will come again<br/>             As the glorious king to reign,<br/>             I with joy will see Your face,<br/>             Freely ransomed by Your grace.</p> |
|--|--|

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter  
 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

### Prayer

- L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

### Collect of the Day

**P** Lord God, You alone have the power to create life where there is none, even in the womb of the Virgin Mary through the power of Your Holy Spirit as Your Son took on human flesh to be with us, our Immanuel, and to save us from our sins, our Savior, Jesus the Christ. As you have given us, who were once dead in our sins and our trespasses, new life by the power of Your Holy Spirit through faith and Holy Baptism, help us to trust in Him and His work alone for our salvation who is still with us through Your Word and Sacrament; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Collect for the Word

**L** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Luther's Morning Prayer

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings in life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

### Luther's Evening Prayer

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

### Blessing

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**L** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

**C** Amen.

### 337 The Night Will Soon Be Ending



1 The night will soon be end - ing; The dawn can -  
 2 The One whom an - gels tend - ed Comes near, a  
 3 The earth in sure ro - ta - tion Will soon bring  
 4 Yet nights will bring their sad - ness And rob our  
 5 God dwells with us in dark - ness And makes the



not be far. Let songs of praise as - cend - ing Now  
 child, to serve; Thus God, the judge of - fend - ed, Bears  
 morn - ing bright, So run where God's sal - va - tion Glows  
 hearts of peace, And sin in all its mad - ness A -  
 night as day; Yet we re - sist the bright - ness And



greet the Morn - ing Star! All you whom dark - ness  
 all our sins de - serve. The guilt - y need not  
 in a sta - ble's light. As old as sin's per -  
 round us may in - crease. But now one Star is  
 turn from God a - way. But grace does not for -



fright - ens With guilt or grief or pain, God's ra - diant  
 cow - er, For God has rec - on - ciled Through His re -  
 ver - sion Is mer - cy's vast de - sign: God brings a  
 beam - ing Whose rays have pierced the night: God comes for  
 sake us, How - ev - er far we run. God claims us



Star now bright - ens And bids you sing a - gain.  
 demp - tive pow - er All those who trust this child.  
 new cre - a - tion—This child its seal and sign.  
 our re - deem - ing From sin's op - pres - sive might.  
 still as chil - dren Through Mar - y's in - fant Son.

Text: Jochen Klepper, 1903–42; tr. Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007  
 Tune: Welsh  
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