

**Saints Triumphant**  
*Lord, Keep us Watchful for our Triumph!*



November 16 & 19, 2023  
**Morrison Zion Lutheran Church**



# MORRISON ZION LUTHERAN

Wisconsin Evangelical  
Lutheran Synod

Our mission is to  
**Glorify God**  
as we  
**Gather**  
around the Gospel  
to help people  
**Grow**  
in the Gospel  
and  
**Go**  
with the Gospel

**Welcome!** We thank  
God that you have  
joined us at worship  
today.

Restrooms are  
located in the  
basement. Hearing  
loop headphones and  
Large Print Hymnals  
are available from an  
usher.

If your children  
need to leave worship,  
please take them to  
the basement. A TV  
broadcasts the service  
in the basement.

Today we gather  
together in the  
presence of God. He is  
present among us in a  
special way through  
his Word and  
Sacrament. We  
acknowledge our sin  
and rejoice in the  
good news of  
forgiveness through  
the life and death of  
Christ. This is the  
focus of our worship.

**The Season** The focus of the season is fulfillment of Christ's promises and encouragement for the Church of the End Times.

**The Sunday** Today the Church hears strains of the distant triumph song and affirms, "Blessed are they who are called to the marriage feast of the Lamb. So while we wait, the Church prays, "Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven." Lord, keep us watchful for our triumph!

## Opening Hymn

## *There is a Higher Throne* Hymn 727 CWS

1 There is a high - er throne than all this  
2 And there we'll find our home, our life be -

world has known, Where faith - ful ones from ev - 'ry tongue  
fore the throne. We'll hon - or him in per - fect song

will one day come. Be - fore the Son we'll stand,  
where we be - long. He'll wipe each tear-stained eye

made fault - less through the Lamb; Be - liev - ing  
as thirst and hun - ger die. The Lamb be -

hearts find prom - ised grace; sal - va - tion comes.  
comes our Shep - herd-King; we'll reign with him.

*Refrain*

Hear heav-en's voic - es sing; their thund-'rous an-them rings. Through

em - 'rald courts and sap - phire skies their prais - es rise.

All glo - ry, wis-dom, pow'r, strength, thanks, and hon - or are to

God our King who reigns on high for - ev - er - more.

*The vivid imagery of our Lord's revelation to Saint John is elegantly summarized in this Irish hymn.*

Text, Tune, Setting: Keith Getty, b. 1974 and Kristyn Getty, b. 1980 © 2003 Thankyou Music;  
admin. EMI CMG Publishing. International copyright secured.  
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THERE IS A HIGHER THRONE  
12 12 12 12 and Refrain

*Stand*

**M:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

M: I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

C: **"Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."** *Revelation 14:13*

M: For the saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and will possess it forever—

C: **yes, for ever and ever!** *Daniel 7:18*

---

### CONFESSION OF SINS

---

M: Beloved in the Lord, we desire to one day join the saints triumphant in heaven. Yet we have disobeyed God, and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

C: **Amen!**

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

After a brief musical introduction, the congregation sings:

C: **Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle; they in glory shine,  
Yet all are one within your grand design. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,  
Steals on the ear the distant triumph-song,  
And hearts are brave again and arms are strong. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**The golden evening brightens in the west;  
Soon, soon, to faithful warriors comes their rest.  
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## Prayer of the Day

**M:** Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

*Be Seated*

---

## THE WORD

---

### First Lesson

### Ezekiel 37:15-28

This lesson immediately follows Ezekiel's prophecy about the dry bones. God had promised Israel that he would raise them up from their graves and settle them in the land. He promised to restore captive Israel to the land of Abraham. The rescue and return of the remnant provides a picture of what the Church waits and watches for. In this lesson God extends that prophecy beyond physical Israel to the Church and to the Messianic kingdom of his Son. Earthly troubles like the captivity or our struggle with sin are temporary. The triumph that's coming won't be. It will be a kingdom without divisions caused by sin, but exemplified by oneness (one stick, one nation, one king, one shepherd—forever). How will this be? Look at how many times God says that he will act for us! We are purely passive in acquiring the triumph in store for us. God will act to save and to cleanse and to renew his covenant: I will be their God, and they will be my people. As Ezekiel held his bound sticks before the eyes of his countrymen, so the Church holds God's promises of pending triumph before us and continually cries, "Wait for it! Watch for it!"

<sup>15</sup> The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>16</sup> "Son of man, take a stick of wood and write on it, 'Belonging to Judah and the Israelites associated with him.' Then take another stick of wood, and write on it, 'Belonging to Joseph (that is, to Ephraim) and all the Israelites associated with him.' <sup>17</sup> Join them together into one stick so that they will become one in your hand.

<sup>18</sup> "When your people ask you, 'Won't you tell us what you mean by this?' <sup>19</sup> say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am going to take the stick of Joseph—which is in Ephraim's hand—and of the Israelite tribes associated with him, and join it to Judah's stick. I will make them into a single stick of wood, and they will become one in my hand.' <sup>20</sup> Hold before their eyes the sticks you have written on <sup>21</sup> and say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. <sup>22</sup> I will make them one nation in the land, on the mountains of Israel. There will be one king over all of them and they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms. <sup>23</sup> They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and vile images or with any of their offenses, for I will save them from all their sinful backsliding, and I will cleanse them. They will be my people, and I will be their God.

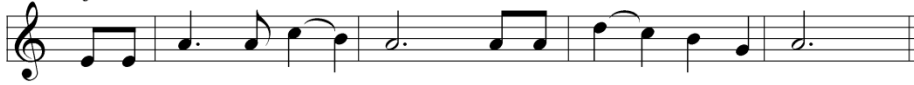
<sup>24</sup> "My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees. <sup>25</sup> They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, the land where your ancestors lived. They and their children and their children's children will live there forever, and David my servant will

be their prince forever. <sup>26</sup> I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever. <sup>27</sup> My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. <sup>28</sup> Then the nations will know that I the LORD make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them forever.” (NIV)

## Psalm of the Day

## Psalm 84

### *Refrain*



Let us go re-joic - ing to the house of the Lord.

How lovely is your dwelling place,\*  
O LORD Almighty!

My soul yearns, even faints,\*  
for the courts of the LORD.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house;\*  
they are ever praising you.

### *Refrain*

Better is one day in your courts\*  
than a thousand elsewhere;

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God\*  
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

O LORD Almighty,\*  
blessed are they who trust in you.

**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.**

### *Refrain*

Refrain Tune: David Clarke Isele. © 1979 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL, [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). All rights reserved.  
Used by permission.

## Second Lesson

## Revelation 19:1-9

What kind of triumph are we watching and waiting for? For the persecuted Church, Jesus gave the Apocalypse of St. John, to let his people know: Jesus will win. Revelation 18 foretold the Fall of Babylon and the destruction of every enemy of the Church. “After this...” John heard the reaction of the saints and angels and all creation—they cried, “Hallelujah!” The word used so prevalently in the Old Testament was not heard in the New Testament until its final vision of the saints triumphant. George Handel tried to capture the glory of what John witnessed with his

*Hallelujah Chorus*, but his work will certainly pale by comparison to that distant triumph song. John lets us see behind the shut door of the parable in our Gospel for the Sunday—he lets us see what we watch for: the consummation of the marriage of Christ and the Church. Blessed are they who are called to the marriage feast of the Lamb! Keep us watchful for our coming triumph!

**19** After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting:

“Hallelujah!

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

<sup>2</sup> for true and just are his judgments.

He has condemned the great prostitute

who corrupted the earth by her adulteries.

He has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”

<sup>3</sup> And again they shouted:

“Hallelujah!

The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever.”

<sup>4</sup> The twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God, who was seated on the throne. And they cried:

“Amen, Hallelujah!”

<sup>5</sup> Then a voice came from the throne, saying:

“Praise our God,

all you his servants,

you who fear him,

both great and small!”

<sup>6</sup> Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

“Hallelujah!

For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

<sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice and be glad

and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come,

and his bride has made herself ready.

<sup>8</sup> Fine linen, bright and clean,

was given her to wear.”

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)

<sup>9</sup> Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.” (NIV)

## **Verse of the Day**

M: Alleluia. They are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple. Alleluia. (Revelation 7:15a)

*Stand*

## **Gospel**

## **Matthew 25:1-13**

Jesus pictures the time before his return as virgins waiting for a bridegroom and the start of a wedding feast. The parable divides all people (*ten* virgins) into two groups: foolish and wise. They weren't described that way because of what they did in the parable, but their actions showed what they were. The foolish virgins acted utterly foolish, bearing empty lamps. The other virgins' actions showed that they indeed were wise. The wise went into the joys of wedding banquet, but the foolish lost both invitation and even recognition. Jesus' central instruction in this parable calls for the waiting Church to be the watchful Church. Keep watch for you do not know the day or hour!

**25** “At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

<sup>3</sup> The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. <sup>4</sup> The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

<sup>6</sup> “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

<sup>7</sup> “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

<sup>9</sup> “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

<sup>10</sup> “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

<sup>11</sup> “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

<sup>12</sup> “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

<sup>13</sup> “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

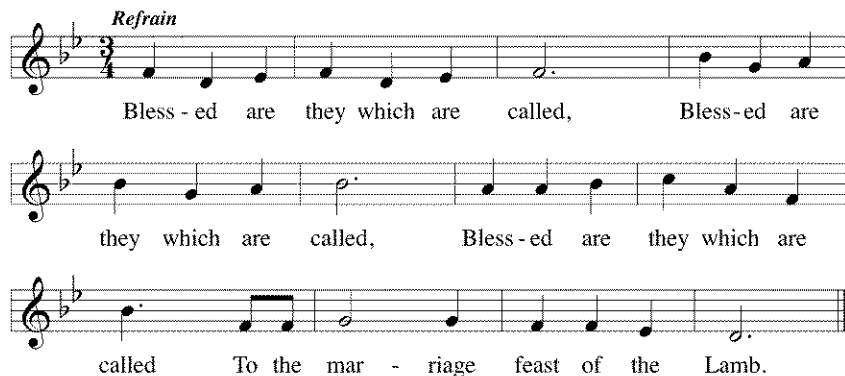
*Be Seated*



# Hymn of the Day

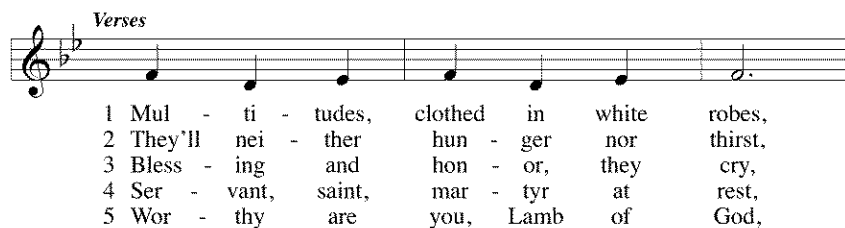
*Blessed Are They* Hymn 730 CWS

*Refrain*

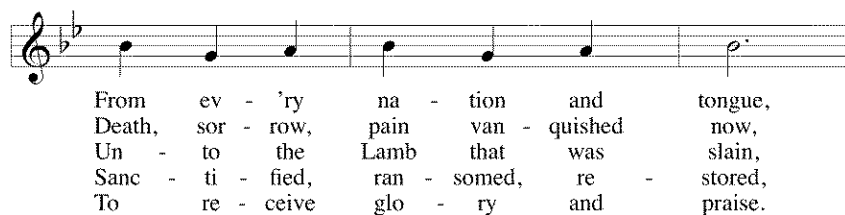


Bless - ed are they which are called, Bless - ed are  
 they which are called, Bless - ed are they which are  
 called To the mar - riage feast of the Lamb.

*Verses*



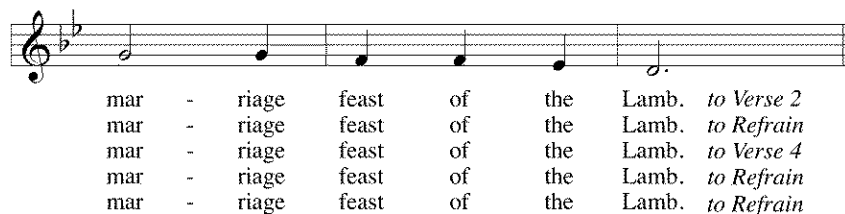
1 Mul - ti - tudes, clothed in white robes,  
 2 They'll nei - ther hun - ger nor thirst,  
 3 Bless - ing and hon - or, they cry,  
 4 Ser - vant, saint, mar - tyr at rest,  
 5 Wor - thy are you, Lamb of God,



From ev - 'ry na - tion and tongue,  
 Death, sor - row, pain van - quished now,  
 Un - to the Lamb that was slain,  
 Sanc - ti - fied, ran - somed, re - stored,  
 To re - ceive glo - ry and praise.



Stood be - fore God and the Lamb At the  
 God wipes all tears from their eyes By the  
 Re - deem - ing us with his blood In the  
 Thun - d'rous - ly sing a new song Of the  
 Al - le - lu - ia and a - men! For the



mar - riage feast of the Lamb. *to Verse 2*  
 mar - riage feast of the Lamb. *to Refrain*  
 mar - riage feast of the Lamb. *to Verse 4*  
 mar - riage feast of the Lamb. *to Refrain*  
 mar - riage feast of the Lamb. *to Refrain*

*This hymn echoes the song of victory sung by the saints both now and in eternity.*

*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*

**Offering**

*Stand*

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today.  
*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

## **Prayer of the Church**

M: Lord of eternity and King of saints, all the heavens adore you. Saints and angels sing before you.

**C: We too join them to praise your majesty.**

M: You clothe us with garments of splendor. You bless us with grace and mercy in this life and eternal glory forever. What undeserved love you show us!

**C: We thank you, Lord, that you have made us your saints.**

M: Encourage us by your gracious promises. Forgive our failures to live as you desire. Strengthen the faith of all who are weak and wandering.

**C: Give us power to live as your faithful people.**

M: Your saints will triumph forever in new heavens and a new earth. The sound of weeping and crying will be heard no more. We anticipate with joy an eternity of perfect fellowship with you.

**C: Be with us as we work and witness for Christ, so that many more people can join us before your throne.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Lord of life, the day is coming when you will come down from heaven with the voice of the archangel and the trumpet call of God. On that glorious day, the saints triumphant will rise in bright array, clothed in your perfect righteousness.

**C: Give us strength until that day when we will share fully in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

© 1999 Northwestern Publishing House. Reprinted by permission.

## **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.**

*Be Seated*

## In Memoriam

(choir and congregation)

Choir: For the bread and wine we share here for the friends that we embrace,  
For the peace we find in healing, for all who gather in this place,  
For the faith of those around us, for the dead and all those here  
For the hope we find in mem'ry for the love that draws us near:

**refrain:** We give you thanks, we give you thanks, for the grace to receive, in you we  
believe. We give you thanks, we give you thanks. With faith and hope and  
love, we give you thanks.

M: After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could  
count, from every nation, tribe and language,

### **C: Standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb.**

M: They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And  
they cried out in a loud voice:

### **C: Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne and to the Lamb.**

M: I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord  
from now on."

### **C: "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, and their deeds will follow them."**

*The reading of the names of those members of Morrison Zion Lutheran called from the church  
militant to the church triumphant since Saints Triumphant Sunday last year.*

Choir: *refrain*

For the movement deep within us, for the stories that we bring,  
For the signs of God's compassion, for the journey that we sing,  
For the Word that holds our promise, for the gifts that we can claim,  
For the wonders that surround us, for the song that sings our name:

*refrain*

For the water bringing new life, for the fragrance of release,  
For the fire that blazes forward, for the call to bring forth peace,  
For the blindness now enlightened, for the bound that now are free,  
For the brightness of your new day, for the kingdom we will be:

*refrain*

*Stand*

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people.  
Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation,  
and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and  
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### **Benediction**

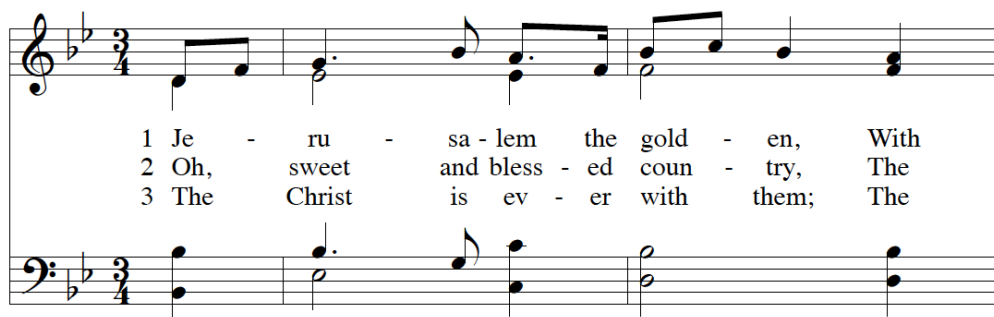
M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.  
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen**

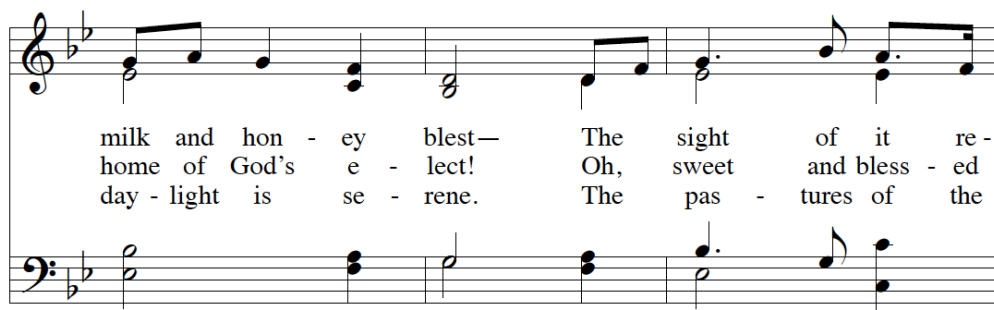
*Be Seated*

# Hymn

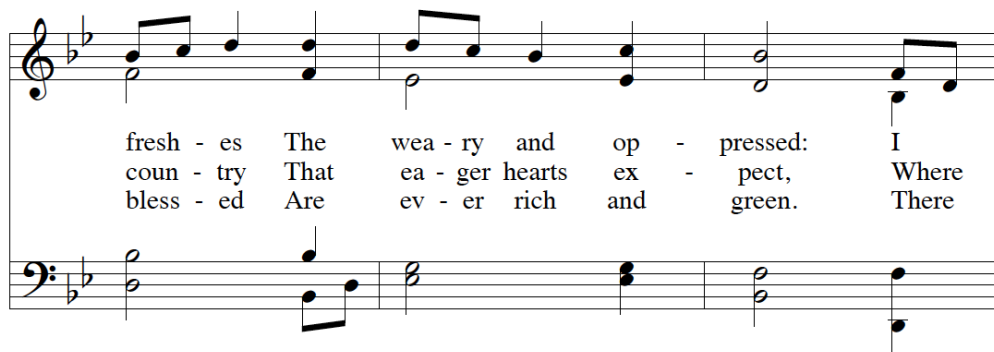
## Jerusalem the Golden Hymn 728 CWS



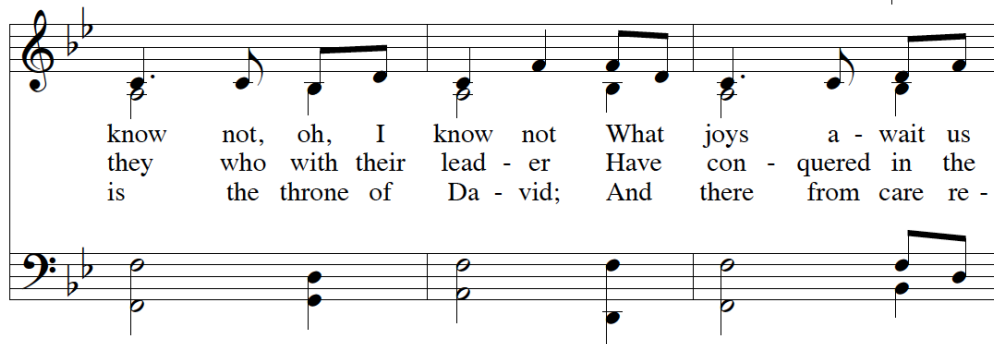
1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With  
 2 Oh, sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The  
 3 The Christ is ev - er with them; The



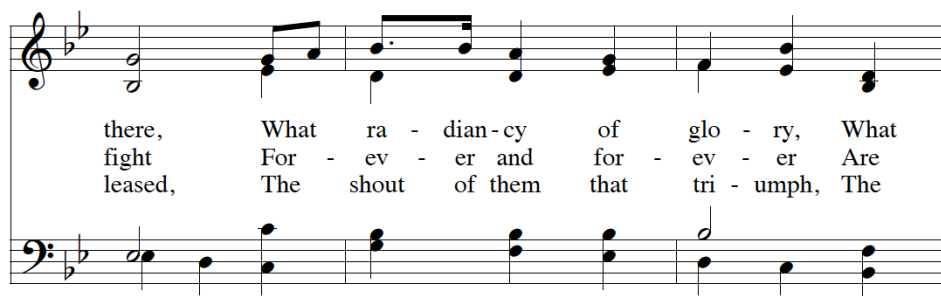
milk and hon - ey blest— The sight of it re -  
 home of God's e - lect! Oh, sweet and bless - ed  
 day - light is se - rene. The pas - tures of the



fresh - es The wea - ry and op - pressed: I  
 coun - try That ea - ger hearts ex - pect, Where  
 bless - ed Are ev - er rich and green. There




know not, oh, I know not What joys a - wait us  
 they who with their lead - er Have con - quered in the  
 is the throne of Da - vid; And there from care re -



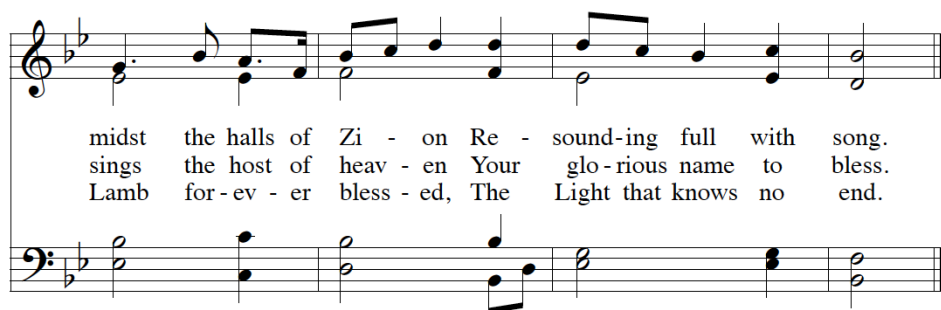
there, What ra - dian-cy of glo - ry, What  
fight For - ev - er and for - ev - er Are  
leased, The shout of them that tri - umph, The



bliss be - yond com - pare: To sing the hymn un -  
clad in robes of white. Je - sus in mer - cy  
song of them that feast. To God en - throned in



end - ing With all the mar - tyr throng, A -  
bring us To that dear land of rest Where  
glo - ry The Church's voic - es blend, The



midst the halls of Zi - on Re - sound-ing full with song.  
sings the host of heav - en Your glo - rious name to bless.  
Lamb for - ev - er bless - ed, The Light that knows no end.

*This twelfth century hymn, first conceived by Bernard of Cluny, depicts an idyllic, heavenly scene. The hymn is gloriously set to the English folk tune THAXTED.*

Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th century  
Tune, Setting: Gustav Holst, 1874–1934, alt.

THAXTED  
76 76 76 D

Cover Art © Corissa Nelson Art - [corissanelsonart.com](http://corissanelsonart.com)

### Blessed Are They

Text: Luke 23:42; texts from Revelation adapted Larry L. Fleming, 1936-2003, alt.  
Tune: BLESSED ARE THEY (77 78)  
Text. Tune: Larry L. Fleming, 1936-2003 © 1996 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP), a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

#### **Questions/Comments** about Zion? Contact:

Pastor James Enderle	mobile: 949-1038; email: <a href="mailto:james.enderle@mzls.org">james.enderle@mzls.org</a>
President: Randy Loppnow	<a href="mailto:randyloppnow@yahoo.com">randyloppnow@yahoo.com</a>
School Board: Kurt Heling	<a href="mailto:KHQH@new.rr.com">KHQH@new.rr.com</a>
Principal: Jacob Geidel	<a href="mailto:jacob.geidel@mzls.org">jacob.geidel@mzls.org</a>

**School Faculty:** Hillary Geidel, Brenda Kuchenbecker, Michaela Hagenow, Katie Muchka, Jacob Geidel

**Website:** [www.mzluth.org](http://www.mzluth.org) **Synod :** [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)

**Custodians:** Ron and Cindy Beyer 864-7427 Abbey Ossmann 203-8627

**Secretary:** Nancy Pantzlaff 470-7334

**Church and School Office:** 864-2349 **Church and Parsonage:** 864-2348

**Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service** Appleton (WELS counseling)

Kathleen Jasman 731-9798

**Living Hope Counseling Ministries** De Pere (WELS counseling)

Dr. John Johnson, Director, 338-8699