THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

November 22nd, 2026



MARTIN LUTHER
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
St. Louis, MO
Pastor Seth Georgson
314-914-6457

THE COMMON SERVICE

Hymn ---------- The Day Is Surely Drawing Near

CW 207

1. **The day is surely drawing near When God's Son, the Anointed,**
   Shall with great majesty appear As judge of all appointed.
   All mirth and laughter then shall cease
   When flames on flames will still increase,
   As Scripture truly teaches.

2. **A trumpet loud shall then resound And all the earth be shaken.**
   Then all who in their graves are found Shall from their sleep awaken
   And with the living in that hour By the Almighty's boundless pow'r
   Be changed at his commanding.

3. **A book is opened then to all, A record truly telling**
   What each has done, both great and small,
   When he on earth was dwelling,
   And ev'ry heart be clearly seen, And all be known as they have been
   In thoughts and words and actions.

4. **Then woe to those who scorned the Lord**
   And sought but carnal pleasures,
   Who here despised his precious Word And loved their earthly treasures!
   With shame and trembling they will stand
   And at the judge's stern command
   To Satan be delivered.

5. **My Savior paid the debt I owe And for my sin was smitten;**
   Within the Book of Life I know My name has now been written.
   I will not doubt, for I am free, And Satan cannot threaten me;
   There is no condemnation!

6. **O Jesus Christ, do not delay, But hasten our salvation;**
We often tremble on our way In fear and tribulation.
Your saints are waiting patiently; Come soon, Redeemer; make us free
From ev'ry evil. Amen.

Stand.

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

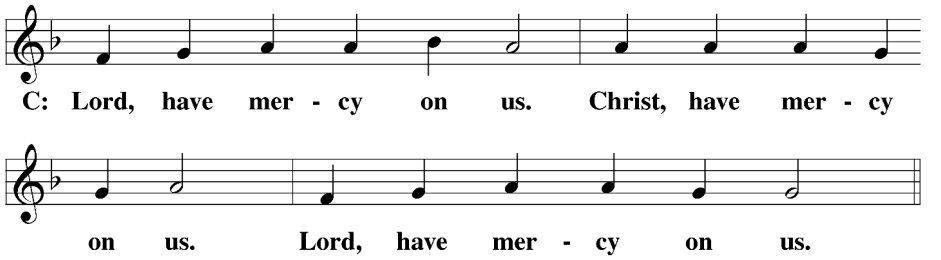


CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Beloved in the Lord: 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.**

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*



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.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

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

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing *CW 171:5,6*

C: Be now our joy on earth, O Lord,
And be our future great reward.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Then, throned with you forever, we
Shall praise your name eternally.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to you let earth accord.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
You are, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit one.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.



Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth your Son, we pray, to lead home his bride, the Church, that, with all the company of the redeemed, we may finally enter into his eternal wedding feast; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be seated.

First Lesson ---------- **Isaiah 65:17–25**

Watch this! I am about to create new heavens and a new earth.
The former things will not be remembered.
They will not come to mind.
Instead, rejoice and celebrate forever, because of what I am creating.
Watch this! I am about to create Jerusalem to be a source of gladness,
and her people will be a source of joy.
I also will be glad because of Jerusalem,
and I will rejoice over my people.
The sound of weeping will not be heard in her again,
nor will the sound of crying.
There will never again be an infant there who lives for only a few days,
or an elderly man who does not fill out all his days,
for one who dies at a hundred will be considered a young man,
and one who fails to attain the age of one hundred will be regarded as cursed.
Then they will build houses and live in them.
They will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
They will not build a house and have another person live in it.
They will not plant and have another person eat the crop,
for the days of my people will be like the days of a tree,
and my chosen ones will enjoy all the work of their hands.
They will not labor only to receive nothing,
and they will not give birth to children doomed to disaster,
for they will be offspring who are blessed by the Lord,
and their descendants will be with them.

Then even before they call, I will answer.
While they are still speaking, I will hear.
The wolf and the lamb will graze together,
and lions will eat straw like cattle,
but the serpent will eat dust as its food.
They will not harm or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain,
says the LORD.

Psalm of the Day ---------- **Psalm 45**
CW p.83

Refrain
Great are the works of the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Great are the works of the Lord.

My heart is stirred by a noble theme*
as I recite my verses for the King.

You are the most excellent of men,*
and your lips have been anointed with grace.

Gird your sword upon your side, O Mighty One;*
clothe yourself with splendor and majesty.

In your majesty ride forth victoriously;*
let your right hand display awesome deeds.

Refrain

Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;*
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

You love righteousness and hate wickedness;*
therefore God has anointed you with the oil of joy.

I will perpetuate your memory through all generations;*
therefore the nations will praise you for ever and ever.

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

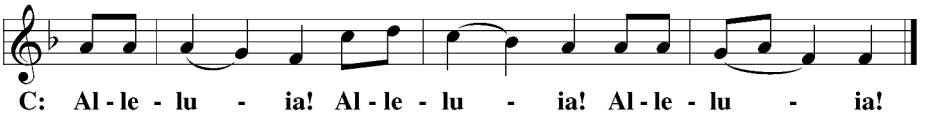
Second Lesson ---------- 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

Concerning the times and dates, brothers, there is no need to write to you, for you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When people are saying, "Peace and security," destruction will suddenly come on them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will certainly not escape. But you, brothers, are not in the dark so that this day takes you by surprise like a thief, for you are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness. So then let us not sleep like everyone else, but rather let us remain alert and sober.

To be sure, those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. You see, God did not appoint us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are also doing.

Verse of the Day *1 Corinthians 1:8*

M: Alleluia. He will also keep you strong until the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia.



Stand.

Gospel ---------- **Matthew 25:1–13**

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish ones took their lamps, they did not take any oil with them; but the wise took oil in their containers with their lamps. While the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, 'No, there may not be enough for us and for you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' But while they were away buying oil, the bridegroom came. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later, the other virgins also came and said, 'Lord, Lord, let us in.' But he answered, 'Amen I tell you: I do not know you.' Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Apostles' Creed

C: 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.

Hymn of the Day ---------- Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

CW 206

1. "Wake, awake, for night is flying,
The watchmen on the heights are crying,
"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"
Midnight hears the welcome voices And at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Oh, where are all you virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes—awake! Your lamps with gladness take! Alleluia!
With bridal care Yourselves prepare
To meet the Bridegroom who is near."

2. Zion hears the watchmen singing, And all her heart with joy is springing;
She wakes, she rises from her gloom,
For her Lord comes down all-glorious,
The strong in grace, in truth victorious;
Her Star is ris'n, her Light is come.
"Now come, O Blessed One, Christ Jesus, God's own Son. Hail! Hosanna!
The joyful call We answer all And follow to the wedding hall."

3. **Now let all the heav'ns adore you; Let saints and angels sing before you**
With harp and cymbal's clearest tone.
Of one pearl each shining portal,
Where, dwelling with the choir immortal,
We gather round your radiant throne.
No vision ever brought, No ear has ever caught Such great glory;
Therefore will we In victory Sing hymns of praise eternally.

Sermon ---------- Matthew 25:1–13

Be Ready To Receive The Returning Lord

1. *Accept The Responsibility For Being Prepared*
2. *Don't Let Christ's Delay Lead To Neglect*
3. *Respect The Fact That Our Time Runs Out*

Stand.

After the sermon, the congregation sings:





Be seated.

Offering

Stand.

Online giving option:
mluther.org/give

Offerings support the spread of the Gospel here and around the world.

Prayer of the Church

*The minister offers the petitions and the congregation joins with **"hear our prayer."***

M: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

M: Heavenly Father, Your Church eagerly awaits the return of her Bridegroom. Grant that we would not grow weary. Strengthen us through Your Word and Sacraments, that we would ever hold fast to Your promise of salvation won for us by Christ, our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Lord, our hope is in You. Grant that all pastors and servants of Your Church proclaim this hope in boldness and clarity. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Creator God, You have called us to build and to plant and so cultivate the world by our various vocations. Endow the faithful with Your Spirit, that they may bear rich fruit in their lives and enjoy the work of their hands. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: King of the nations, grant wisdom, humility and integrity to those who govern us, especially to Donald Trump, our president; Michael Kehoe, our governor; and all who make, administer and judge our laws, that the work of their hands would be of benefit to all whom they serve and in accordance with Your will. Bring peace to our troubled world, that all would hear the message of the Gospel and rejoice in Your salvation. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: God of compassion, draw near to the suffering *[especially _____]*. Grant healing and relief according to Your will, and comfort them by the sure and certain hope we have in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Loving Father, grant us repentant hearts as we approach the altar this day to receive the body and blood of Your Son. As we receive this foretaste of the wedding feast to come, grant that we would be ever watchful and ready for when Christ returns in glory. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: O God, You are Lord of those who are awake and those who have fallen asleep. You knit us together in the salvation of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Preserve our hope and teach us to number our days, until we enter together into the kingdom of Your Son. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

M: Lord God, heavenly Father, we here remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Praising His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: 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.**

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



M: Lift up your hearts.



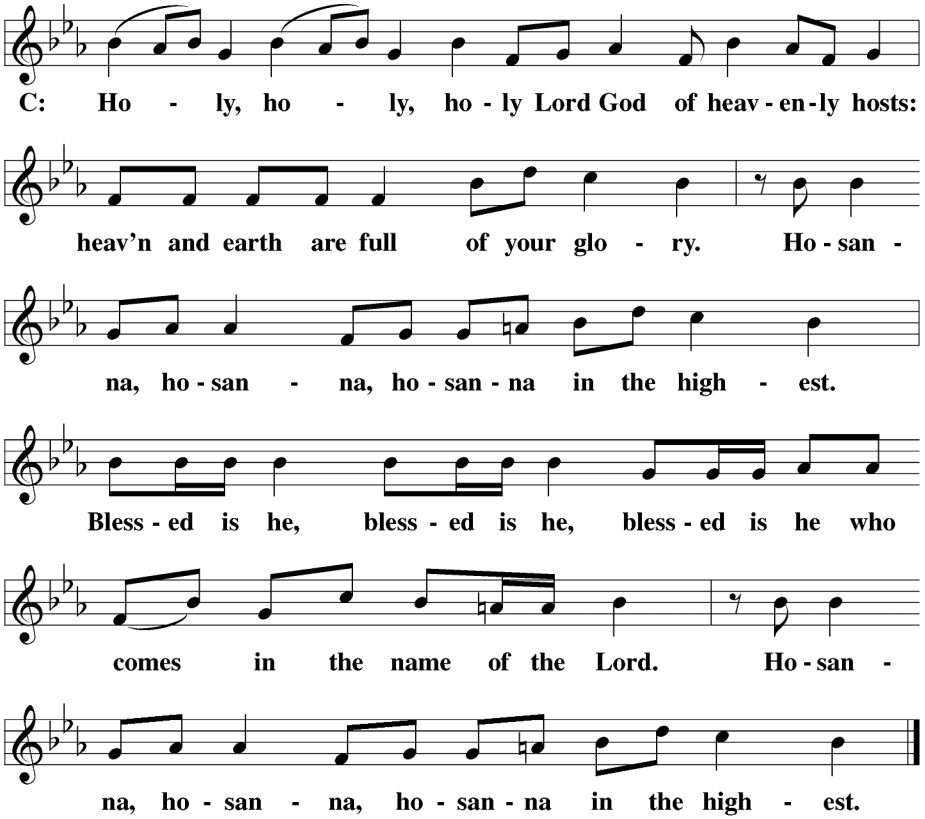
M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who preserves his Church to the end of time when he will come again as king to judge all people and take his own to glory.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy *Sanctus*



Words of Institution

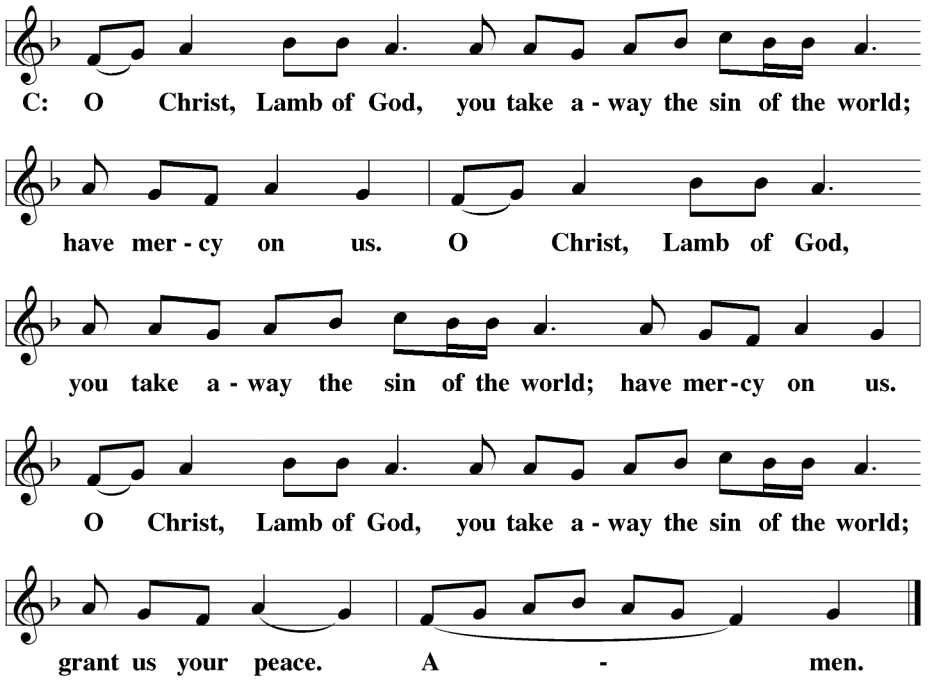
M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O Christ, Lamb of God *Agnus Dei*



Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

In Holy Communion we believe that Jesus gives us his own body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins. We ask that, in keeping with God's Word, only confirmed members who are in confessional unity with our church (WELS and ELS) would come forward to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions or are interested in communicant membership, please speak with the pastor.

During the distribution, the congregation sings the following hymns:

Hymn ---------- The Church's One Foundation

CW 538

1. **The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;**
   She is his new creation By water and the Word.
   From heav'n he came and sought her To be his holy bride;
   With his own blood he bought her, And for her life he died.

2. **Elect from ev'ry nation, Yet one o'er all the earth;**
   Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
   One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
   And to one hope she presses, With ev'ry grace endued.

3. **The Church shall never perish. Her dear Lord, to defend,**
   To guide, sustain, and cherish, Is with her to the end.
   Though there be those that hate her And strive to see her fail,
   Against both foe and traitor She ever shall prevail.

4. **Though with a scornful wonder The world sees her oppressed,**
   By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,
   Yet saints their watch are keeping; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
   And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.

5. **Mid toil and tribulation And tumult of her war**
   She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore
   Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest
   And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.

Hymn ---------- **Jerusalem, Thou City Fair and High**

CW 212

1. **Jerusalem, thou city fair and high, Would God I were in thee!**
   My longing heart to thee would gladly fly; It will not stay with me.
   Far over vale and mountain, Far over field and plain,
   It hastes to seek its fountain And leave this world of pain.

2. **A moment's space, and gently, wondrously, Released from earthly ties,**
   Elijah's chariot comes to carry me Through all these lower skies
   To yonder shining regions, While down to meet me come
   The blessed angel legions And bid me welcome home.

3. **The patriarchs' and prophets' noble train, With all Christ's foll'wers true**
   Who bore the cross and could the worst disdain That tyrants dared to do,
   I see them shine forever, All-glorious as the sun
   Mid light that fadeth never, Their perfect freedom won.

4. **Unnumbered choirs before the shining throne Their joyful anthems raise**
   Till heaven's halls are echoing with the tone Of that great hymn of praise
   And all its host rejoices, And all its blessed throng
   Unite their myriad voices In one eternal song.

Hymn ---------- **Alleluia! Let Praises Ring**

CW 241

1. **Alleluia! Let praises ring! To God the Father let us bring**
   Our songs of adoration.
   To him through everlasting days Be worship, honor, pow'r, and praise
   Whose hand sustains creation.
   Singing, Ringing: Holy, holy, God is holy. Spread the story
   Of our God, the Lord of glory.

2. **Alleluia! Let praises ring! Unto the Lamb of God we sing,**
In whom we are elected.
He bought the Church with his own blood; He cleansed her in that blessed flood
And as his bride selected.
Holy, Holy Is our union And communion. His befriending
Gives us joy and peace unending.

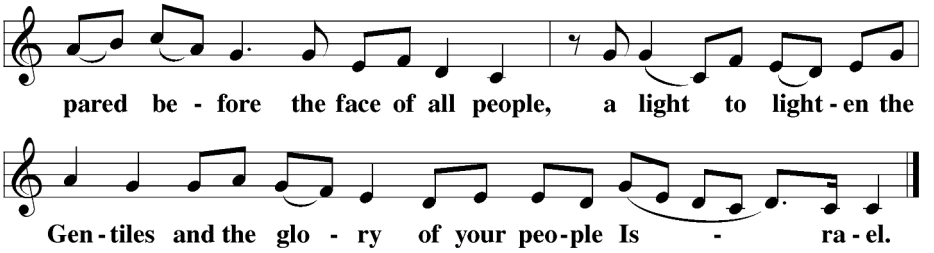
3. **Alleluia! Let praises ring! Unto the Holy Ghost we sing**
For our regeneration.
The saving faith in us he wrought And us unto the Bridegroom brought,
Made us his chosen nation.
Glory! Glory! Joy eternal, Bliss supernal; There is manna
And an endless, glad hosanna.

4. **Alleluia! Let praises ring! Unto our triune God we sing;**
Blest be his name forever!
With angel hosts let us adore And sing his praises more and more
For all his grace and favor.
Singing, Ringing: Holy, holy, God is holy. Spread the story
Of our God the Lord of glory!

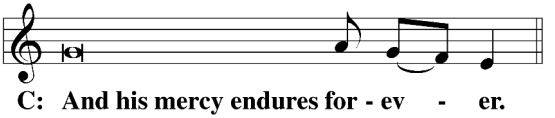
After the distribution is finished the congregation stands and sings:

Song of Simeon *Nunc Dimittis*





M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this Holy Supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



M: 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.



Be seated.

Hymn ---------- **Jerusalem the Golden**

CWS 728

1. Jerusalem the golden, With milk and honey blest-
The sight of it refreshes The weary and oppressed:
I know not, oh, I know not What joys await us there,
What radiancy of glory, What bliss beyond compare:
To sing the hymn unending With all the martyr throng,
Amidst the halls of Zion Resounding full with song.

2. Oh, sweet and blessed country, The home of God's elect!
Oh, sweet and blessed country That eager hearts expect,
Where they who with their leader Have conquered in the fight
Forever and forever Are clad in robes of white.
Jesus in mercy bring us To that dear land of rest
Where sings the host of heaven Your glorious name to bless.

3. The Christ is ever with them; The daylight is serene.
The pastures of the blessed Are ever rich and green.
There is the throne of David; And there from care released,
The shout of them that triumph, The song of them that feast.
To God enthroned in glory The Church's voices blend,
The Lamb forever blessed, The Light that knows no end.

WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

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