

O Savior Of Our Fallen Race

1. O Savior of our fallen race
O brightness of the Father's face
O Son who shared the Father's might
Before the world knew day or night
O Jesus very Light of light
Our constant star in sin's deep night
Now hear the prayers Your people pray
Throughout the world this holy day
2. Remind us Lord of life and grace
How once to save our fallen race
You put our human vesture on
And came to us as Mary's son
Today as year by year its light
Brings to our world a promise bright
One precious truth outshines the sun
Salvation comes from You alone
3. For from the Father's throne
You came His banished children to reclaim
And earth and sea and sky revere
The love of Him who sent You here
And we are jubilant today
For You have washed our guilt away
O hear the glad new song we sing
On this the birth of Christ our King
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In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Confession: Psalm 85

You showed favor to your land, O LORD; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins.

You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.

Restore us again, O God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us.

Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger through all generations?

Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

Show us your unfailing love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

I will listen to what God the LORD will say; he promises peace to his people, his saints— but let them not return to folly.

Surely his salvation is near those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Faithfulness springs forth from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven.

The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.

Righteousness goes before him and prepares the way for his steps.

Lord, be merciful to us and forgive us. Restore us, revive us and enable us to walk in your will. Let the light of your mercy and grace be evident in our lives.

ABSOLUTION

Isaiah 40:1–11 Comfort for God’s People

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!”

Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

2 Peter 3:8–14 *The Lord Is Not Slow*

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

14 Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

Mark 1:1–8 *John the Baptist Prepares the Way*

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, 3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’ ” 4 John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

5 And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery

1. Come behold the wondrous myst'ry In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises Robed in frail humanity
In our longing in our darkness Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ who condescended Took on flesh to ransom us
2. Come behold the wondrous myst'ry He the perfect Son of Man
In His living in His suff'ring Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment Of the law in Him we stand

3. Come behold the wondrous myst'ry Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory Grace unmeasured love untold
4. Come behold the wondrous myst'ry Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him Praise the Lord He is alive
What a foretaste of deliv'rance How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected As we will be when He comes

Sermon

Installation of Officers

Prayers

Benediction

He Will Hold Me Fast

1. When I fear my faith will fail Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold He must hold me fast

Chorus:

He will hold me fast He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so He will hold me fast

2. Those He saves are His delight Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost His Promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost He will hold me fast.
3. For my life He bled and died Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight When He comes at last.

Worship – December 6th, 2020