Hymns, Lessons, Gradual Sun, after Christmas 2023

#136

- Angels from the realms of glory,
   Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
   Ye who sang creation's story,
   Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
   Come and worship,
   Come and worship;
   Worship Christ, the new-born King.
  - 2. Shepherds in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night, God with man is now residing, Yonder shines the Infant Light: Come and worship: Come and worship, Worship Christ, the new-born King.
  - 3. Sages, leave your contemplations; Brighter visions beam afar; Seek the great Desire of nations, Ye have seen His natal star: Come and worship, Come and worship; Worship Christ, the new-born King.
  - 4. Saints, before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear, Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His Temple shall appear: Come and worship, Come and worship; Worship Christ, the new-born King. Amen.

Lesson: Isaiah 11.1-5

1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; 3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: 4 But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. 5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

Epistle: Galatians 4.1-7

1 Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all; 2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father. 3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: 4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. 6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

## Gradual, p. 57

Thou art fairer than the children of men: grace is poured into Thy lips. My heart is inditing a good matter; I speak of the things which I have made touching the King: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. The Lord reigneth, He is clothed with majesty: the Lord is clothed with strength wherewith He hath girded Himself. Hallelujah.

Gospel: Luke 2.22-40

22 And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; 23 (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) 24 And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. 26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, 28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, 29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: 30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, 31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; 32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

33 And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. 34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; 35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

36 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; 37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. 38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem. 39 And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth. 40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

#81

1. O Jesus Christ,

Thy manger is
My paradise at which my soul reclineth.
For there, O Lord,
Doth lie the Word
Made flesh for us; herein Thy grace
forthshineth.

2. He whom the sea
And wind obey
Doth come to serve the sinner in great
meekness.
Thou, God's own Son,

With us art one, Dost join us and our children in our weekness.

3. Thy light and grace
Our guilt efface,
Thy heavenly riches all our loss
retrieving.
Immanuel,
Thy birth doth quell
The power of hell and Satan's bold
deceiving.

4. Thou Christian heart,
Whoe'er thou art,
Be of good cheer and let no sorrow move
thee!
For God's own Child,
In mercy mild,
Joins thee to Him;-how greatly God must
love thee!

5. Remember thou
What glory now
The Lord prepared thee for all earthly
sadness.
The angel host
Can never boast
Of greater glory, greater bliss or gladness.

6. The world may hold
Her wealth and gold;
But thou, my heart, keep Christ as thy true
Treasure.
To Him hold fast
Until at last
A crown be thine and honor in full
measure. Amen.

## #123

- 1. Our God, our Help in ages past, Our Hope for years to come, Our Shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal Home!
  - 2. Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure; Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.
  - 3. Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame, From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.
  - 4. A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone, Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.
  - 5. Thy word commands our flesh to dust: "Return ye sons of men!"
    All nations rose from earth at first
    And turn to earth again.

6. Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Bears all its sons away; They fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the opening day.

- 7. Like flowery fields the nations stand, Pleased with the morning light; The flowers beneath the mower's hand Lie withering ere 'tis night.
- 8. Our God, our Help in ages past, Our Hope for years to come, Be Thou our Guard while troubles last And our eternal Home! Amen.

## # 644 Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.