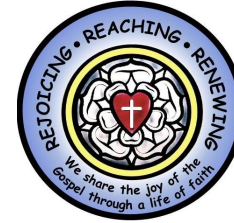


Paying Taxes to Caesar

Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." Matthew 22:21

Based on Matthew 22:15-22 (NIV)



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

319 South 5th Street, Albion, Nebraska 68620

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Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

October 22, 2023 † Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

† GATHERING †

Prelude

(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Vyve Cable Channel 21 and Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

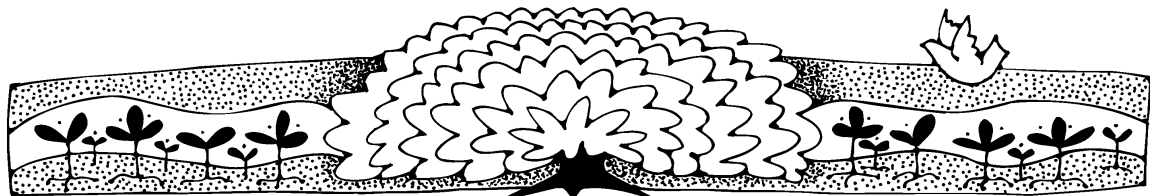
Holy Communion will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.



U Q J P F L K C Z Q T A X E S
 Y N W N L O V Q P J H N J Z D
 Z A H R H A P C K B W K S E K
 D P K E F T N I L Q E O Z H G
 A H R P A R T S N P S A R A C
 D A Y L Q A E K I I M A F D N
 D R Y I A P A C N A O N A Y S
 W I P E B O C A T S U N A L Z
 F S S D L N H E E U U W V D V
 Z E I C S G E S G O L E N B E
 F E W W I L R A R S Z B T G L
 U S T N B P T R I U Y G B I O
 V F L Y H G L I T Z U O F V G
 K T R U T H O E Y P U T K E H
 V M V K Q X K D S O Z A D K G

GOD	WORDS	DISCIPLES	OPINION
CAESAR	TAXES	AMAZED	REPLIED
WAY	PLANS	GIVE	TRAP
PHARISEES	TEACHER	INTEGRITY	TRUTH

Jumble Answers: plans, teach, words, taxes, Caesar



The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

When we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.

**But if we would confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just,
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Today we consider the warning of God that the wicked will surely die.

(Let us take a moment of silence for reflection and confession.)

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have obeyed neither you nor your representatives as we ought.

We have broken your commandments.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Almighty God desires life for his people;

he calls us to deal with one another in love as he has dealt with us.

He gave his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ,

and by his authority, I therefore declare to you

the entire forgiveness of all your sins,

in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

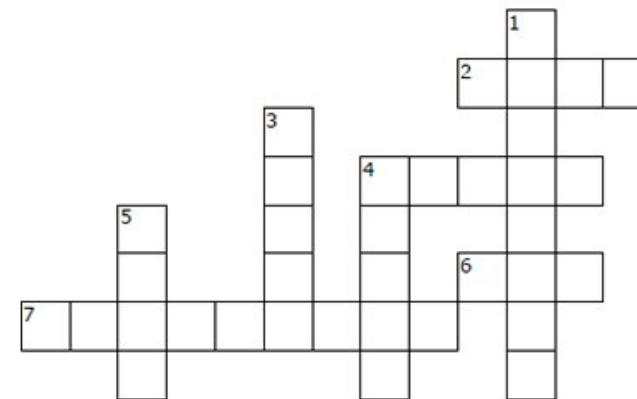
Amen.

Confession
Absolution

Paying Taxes to Caesar

Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is
Caesar's, and to God what is God's." Matthew 22:21

Based on Matthew 22:15-22 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. A usually flat piece of metal used for money.
4. A statement that agrees with fact or reality.
6. To give someone money in return for something.
7. A religious group who were strict followers of the law.

DOWN

1. A picture of a person -- usually showing the face.
3. The details of how something is going to be accomplished.
4. Money paid to the government.
5. A situation from which it is difficult or impossible to escape.

TAXES
TRUTH

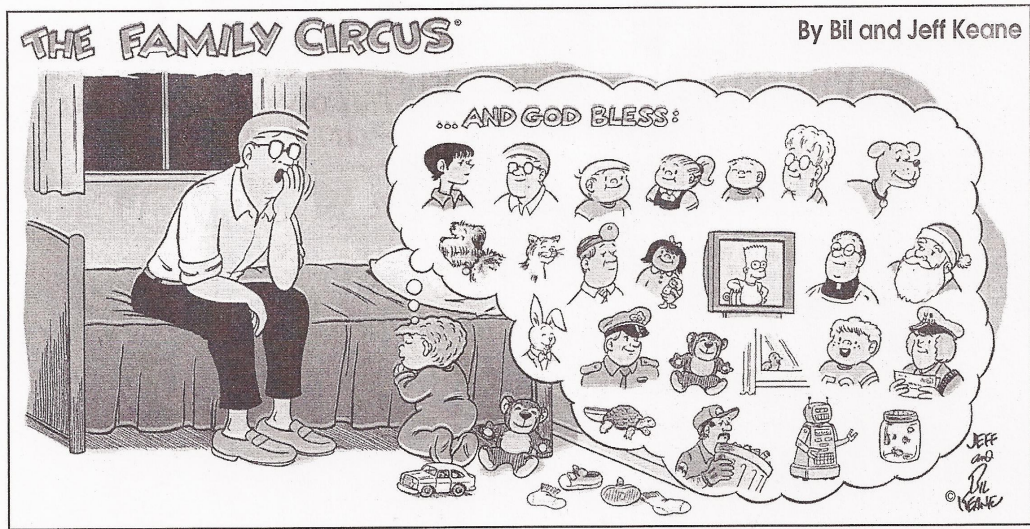
TRAP
PAY

PORTRAIT
PHARISEES

PLANS
COIN

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



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PAYING TAXES
MATTHEW 22:15-22

NPASL
5

HTCEA
1

DORSW
6 4

STXAE
2

DZAMEA
3

The Pharisees asked Jesus if it was right to pay taxes to whom?

ANSWER:
1 2 3 4 5 6

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Opening Hymn

You Servants of God

#825



1 You ser-vants of God, your Mas-ter pro-claim, and pub-lish a -
2 As-cend-ed on high, al-might-y to save, yet still he is
3 Sal-va-tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
4 Then let us a-dore and give him his right, all glo-ry and



broad his won-der-ful name; the name, all-vic-to-rious, of
nigh, his pres-ence we have. The great con-gre-ga-tion his
loud and hon-or the Son. The prais-es of Je-sus the
pow'r and wis-dom and might, all hon-or and bless-ing, with



Je-sus ex-tol; his king-dom is glo-rious and rules o-ver all!
tri-umph shall sing, as-crib-ing sal-va-tion to Je-sus, our king!
an-gels pro-claim, fall down on their fac-es, and wor-ship the Lamb.
an-gels a-bove, and thanks nev-er ceas-ing, and in-fin-ite love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
Music: attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737-1806
Public Domain

Opening Litany

Both day and night, from the rising of the sun to the time when it sets,
our God is in control.

All our moments belong to him.

Within the lives of our leaders and teachers,
our employers and supervisors, our friends and family members,
God is in control.

They are encompassed by the Father's care.

Our homes and possessions, our money and treasures,
our buildings and streets, our cities and towns are under God's control.

They are protected by his watchful eye.

The hands extended in welcome, the coins dropped in offering baskets, the acts of kindness and love in our Churches and communities are directed by our God.

They are examples of ways God's power is at work in the world.

For we are convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,

will be able to separate us from the love, and power, and authority of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Hymn of Praise

Glory to God

Family of God

Glo-ry be to God on high! Peace on the earth to all is giv'n!

Join us as we glo-ri-fy, Send-ing our prais-es to the heav'ns!

1. You, Lord God, — our heav'n-ly King, O God the Fa-ther, might-y One;
2. You sit at the right hand of God; Oh, hear our hum-ble prayer to - day:
3. You, O Lord, are the Ho - ly One, and you a-lone are Lord of heav'n,

1. Je - sus Christ, to you we sing, O Lord, — on - ly be - got - ten Son. (Ref.)
2. Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us— Je - sus, take — our sins a - way. (Ref.)
3. Reign-ing with the Ho - ly Spir - it and the Fa - ther. A - men. (Ref.)

Alleluia!

✠ SENDING ✠

Announcements

Benediction

God all mighty, God most merciful, bless us, keep us, and grant us peace.

In the name of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

#705

- 1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
- 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
- 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
- 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

- pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

- bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

- for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969
Music: John Hughes, 1873-1932
Public Domain

Distribution Hymn

In the Singing

#466



1 In the sing-ing, in the si-lence, in the hands ex-pect-ant, o-pen,
2 In the ques-tion, in the an-swer, in the mo-ment of ac-cept-ance,



in the bless-ing, in the break-ing, in your pres-ence at this ta-ble,
in the heart's cry, in the heal-ing, in the cir-cle of your peo-ple,



Refrain

Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931
Music: Carlton R. Young, b. 1926
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Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*
Blessed be your name, O God,
**for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus,
the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*
Sovereign God,
**raise your throne in our hearts.
Created by you, let us live in your image;
created for you, let us act for your glory;
redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ **WORD** ✠

First Reading

Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

A reading from Isaiah.

¹Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him
and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him —
and the gates shall not be closed:
²I will go before you and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
³I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me.
⁵I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
⁷I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96:1-13

Let us read Psalm 96 responsively.

¹Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²**Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰**Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved
will judge the peoples with equity."**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹²**Then shall all the trees of the wood
shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God

Family of God

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace. Grant us peace.

Distribution

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Distribution Hymn

Rock of Ages

#623

1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my-self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,
let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,
be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778; Music: Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872; Public Domain

Give us your very self in these gifts of bread and wine
and make them be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;
who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks.

broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,
“Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup.

Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
“Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

God of inescapable love,

you call upon us to give to you the things that are yours.

As we realize with joy that all things are yours,

turn every action of our lives into ways of worshiping you.

Unite us with the communion of your saints

past, present, and eternal, turning all into alleluia,

turning justice into kindness and trust,

turning fear into hope, hunger into fulfillment,

isolation into companionship, and suffering into love,

until the day comes when we and all your people

see you face to face,

ever one God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together as Jesus taught us...

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.

A reading from First Thessalonians.

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians
in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our
prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work
of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus
Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has
chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word
only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction;
just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for
your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite
of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy
Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia
and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not
only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has
become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For the
people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had
among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and
true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from
the dead — Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia Verse

Family of God

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! The Lord_ our_ God be
blessed! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Your Word_ brings_ righ - teous - ness. With
all your works, we praise you! Ex - alt your Name for - ev - er! Al - le -
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Sing al - le - lu - ia!

Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵The the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Time Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Lift Every Voice and Sing

#841



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



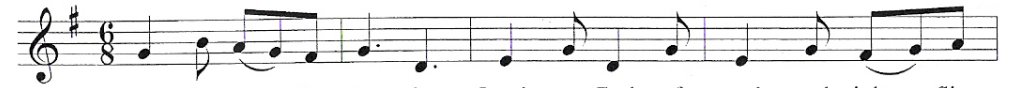
ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.
felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

You cover us with your loving hand
that we may dare to stand in your presence,
and you tell us your name that we may see into your heart.
And so we come before you
with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
to sing the hymn of your unending praise.

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

Family of God



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, our God of pow'r and might, — Sing



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Heav'n and earth are full of your maj - es -



ty! Ho - san - na in — the high - est! Blest is he who



comes in the Name of the Lord! Sing loud, — Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the



high - est! Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!

Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Merciful God, you have given us the law
as the covenant between your ways and ours,
and in Jesus you have renewed that covenant
by giving us the fulfillment of that law.
In this meal you show us
how much you long for us to be your companions
and how constant is your presence among us.
Send down your Holy Spirit upon us now,
that we might become the body of Christ that you give us to eat.

lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
 all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
 We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
 we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

Text & Music: Dwight Liles, b. 1957
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✠ MEAL ✠

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,
It is right to give our thanks and praise.



Proper Preface

We praise and thank you, God of Abraham and Moses,
 because you have made your creation out of nothing,
 you have come among us in liberation and covenant,
 and in your Son's dying and rising
 you have opened up your life to share your holiness with us.

In your tender mercy
 you have broken upon us the dawn from on high
 and shown us your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

Let our re-joic-ing rise high as the lis-t'ning skies,
 yet with a stead-y beat, have not our wea-ry feet
 thou who hast by thy might led us in-to the light,
 let it re-sound loud as the roll-ing sea.
 come to the place for which our par-ents sighed?
 keep us for-ev-er in the path, we pray.
 Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o-ver a way that with tears has been wa-tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac-es, our God, where we met thee;
 sing a song full of the hope that the pres-ent has brought us;
 we have come, tread-ing our path through the blood of the slaugh-tered,
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for-get thee;
 fac-ing the ris-ing sun of our new day be-gun,
 out from the gloom-y past, till now we stand at last
 shad-owed be-neath thy hand, may we for-ev-er stand,
 let us march on till vic-to-ry is won.
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 true to our God, true to our na-tive land.

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938
 Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954
 Public Domain

Apostles' Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith...

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

P Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit,
let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world
and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ.
Equip us for the work of faith,
and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P Creating God, the sea roars, the earth rejoices,
and the heavens are glad at the wonder of all you have made.
Bless the work of ecologists and conservationists
and all those who safeguard the riches of creation.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A Sovereign God, your rule and authority is over the cosmos. As you
once worked through the ruler Cyrus for the good of your people,
accomplish your purposes through the work of elected leaders and
public servants. Guide them with your wisdom and compassion.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed,
despairing, sick, and suffering, especially...
Pour out your abundant mercy on all whom this world
has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, that they may know your joy.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A Almighty God, all our life belongs to you.
When earthly idols threaten to lead your church astray,
remind us that you alone are the source of our eternal hope.
Direct the work of church treasurers, councils,
and all who manage financial matters.
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence...
God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

A Everlasting God, the saints of every age
have sung your praise and shared your word.
We give you thanks for their witness
and pray that we may join them as citizens of your unending kingdom.
Gracious God, **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your unending love and amazing grace;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

✠ OFFERING ✠

Offering Response

We Are an Offering

#692

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in treble clef with a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics are: "We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our".