

December 14, 2025

Words of Welcome

Psalm 1:1-2 (ESV)

- 1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
- 2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

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Scripture Reading

Hebrews 13:1-6 (ESV)

- 1 Let brotherly love continue.
- 2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.
- 3 Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.
- 4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.
- 5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
- 6 So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

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**Savior of the Nations, Come
(Choral Special)**

Verse 1:

Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O Heav'n and Earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

Verse 2:

Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh:
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

Verse 3:

Wondrous birth! O wondrous child
Of the virgin undefiled!
Though by all the world disowned,
Still to be in Heav'n enthroned.

Verse 4:

Lo, he comes! The Lord of all
Leaves his bright and royal hall;
God and man, with giant force,
Hastening to run his course.

Verse 5:

From the Father forth he came
And returned hence to the same.
Captive leading death and hell—
High the song of triumph swell!

Verse 6:

Christ, the Father's only Son,
Has o'er sin the vict'ry won.
Boundless shall your kingdom be;
When shall we its glories see?

Verse 7:

Brightly does your manger shine;
Glorious is its light divine.
Let not sin o'ercloud this light;
Ever be our faith thus bright.

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Verse 8:

Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be
Ever and eternally.

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Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Verse 1:

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear Desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Verse 2:

Born Thy people to deliver
Born a Child, and yet a King.
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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Fullness of Grace

Verse 1

Fullness of Grace in man's human frailty,
This is the wonder of Jesus.
Laying aside His power and glory,
Humbly He entered our world.
Chose the path of meanest worth:
Scandal of a virgin birth.
Born in a stable, cold and rejected:
Here lies the hope of the world.

Verse 2

Fullness of grace, the love of the Father
Shown in the face of Jesus.
Stooping to bear the weight of humanity,
Walking the Calvary road.
Christ the holy Innocent
Took our sin and punishment.
Fullness of God, despised and rejected:
Crushed for the sins of the world.

Verse 3

Fullness of hope in Christ we had longed for,
Promise of God in Jesus.
Through His obedience we are forgiven,
Opening the floodgates of heaven.
All our hopes and dreams we bring
Gladly as an offering.
Fullness of life and joy unspeakable:
God's gift in love to the world.

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Holy Child Who Chose the Hearts of Men

Verse 1

Holy Child who chose the hearts of men
To be His favored home
Leaving heaven's gates for Bethlehem
God came to call His own
Now to us the highest King is born
Behold the Royal Son
Glory kneels to mend all that is torn
The promised Child has come

Verse 2

Joy and pain as man He knew on earth
No place to lay His head
As a servant He embraced this world
And on a cross He bled
Having borne the deepest grief of man
He rose to heaven's throne
Now I'm sheltered in the Father's hand
I stand by grace alone

Verse 3

May the gift of God amaze us still
The triumph of all time
As His child I kneel to Heaven's will
To make His purpose mine
Though this road be scarred with trial and pain
It's paved with lavish grace
Knowing Him will be my greatest gain
My hope the Savior's face

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New City Catechism

47: Does the Lord's Supper Add Anything to Christ's Atoning Work?

Full Answer

No, Christ died once for all. The Lord's Supper is a covenant meal celebrating Christ's atoning work; as it is also a means of strengthening our faith as we look to him, and a foretaste of the future feast. But those who take part with unrepentant hearts eat and drink judgment on themselves.

Children's Answer

No, Christ died once for all.

Scripture

1 PETER 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God. . . .

Commentary

J. C. RYLE

Let us settle it firmly in our minds that the Lord's Supper was not given to be a means either of justification or of conversion. It was never meant to give grace where there is no grace already, or to provide pardon when pardon is not already enjoyed. It cannot possibly provide what is lacking with the absence of repentance to God, and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. It is an ordinance for the penitent, not for the impenitent, for the believing, not for the unbelieving, for the converted, not for the unconverted. The unconverted man, who fancies that he can find a shortcut road to heaven by taking the Sacrament, without treading the well-worn steps of repentance and faith, will find to his cost one day that he is totally deceived. The Lord's Supper was meant to increase and help the grace that a man has, but not to impart the grace that he has not. It was certainly never intended to make our peace with God, to justify, or to convert.

The simplest statement of the benefit which a truehearted communicant may expect to receive from the Lord's Supper . . . is the strengthening and refreshing of our souls. Clearer views of Christ and His atonement, clearer views of all the offices which Christ fills as our Mediator and Advocate, clearer views of the complete redemption Christ has obtained for us by His vicarious death on the cross, clearer views of our full and perfect acceptance in Christ before God, fresh reasons for deep repentance for sin, fresh reasons for lively faith, fresh reasons for living a holy, consecrated, Christ-like life,—these are among the leading returns which a believer may confidently expect to get from his attendance at the Lord's Table. He that eats the bread and drinks the wine in a right spirit will find himself drawn into closer communion with Christ, and will feel to know Him more, and understand Him better. . . .

In eating that bread and drinking that cup, such a man will have his repentance deepened, his faith increased, his knowledge enlarged, his habit of holy living strengthened. He will realise more of the "real presence" of Christ in his heart. Eating that bread by faith, he will feel closer communion with the body of Christ. Drinking that wine by faith, he will feel closer communion with the blood of Christ. He will see more clearly what Christ is to him, and what he is to Christ.

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He will understand more thoroughly what it is to be “one with Christ, and Christ one with him.” He will feel the roots of his soul’s spiritual life watered, and the work of grace in his heart established, built up, and carried forward. All these things may seem and sound like foolishness to a natural man, but to a true Christian these things are light, and health, and life, and peace.

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Who Would Have Dreamed

Verse 1

On a starlit hillside, shepherds watched their sheep
Slowly, David's city drifted off to sleep
But to this little town of no great renown
The Lord had a promise to keep

Verse 2

Prophets had foretold it, a mighty King would come
Long awaited Ruler, God's Anointed One
But the Sovereign of all looked helpless and small
As God gave the world His own Son

Chorus

And who would have dreamed or ever foreseen
That we could hold God in our hands?
The Giver of Life is born in the night
Revealing God's glorious plan
To save the world

Verse 3

Wondrous gift of heaven: the Father sends the Son
Planned from time eternal, moved by holy love
He will carry our curse and death He'll reverse
So we can be daughters and sons

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Sermon
The Bridegroom Who Saves the Feast

John 2:1-11 (ESV)

- 1 On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.
- 2 Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples.
- 3 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."
- 4 And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come."
- 5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."
- 6 Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.
- 7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim.
- 8 And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it.
- 9 When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom
- 10 and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now."
- 11 This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

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**Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
(Choral Special)**

Verse 1:

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old hath sung
It came, a flower bright
Amid the cold of winter
When half gone was the night

Verse 2:

Isaiah 'twas foretold it
The Rose I have in mind
With Mary we behold it
The virgin mother kind
To show God's love aright
She bore to men a Savior
When half gone was the night

Verse 3:

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere
True man, yet very God
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens every load

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Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Verse 1:

Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth, and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful, all ye nations, rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Verse 2:

Christ, by highest heaven adored
Christ, the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of the Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus, our Emanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Verse 3:

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace
Hail the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings
Risen with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

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Benediction

Psalm 18:49-50 (ESV)

49 For this I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations, and sing to your name.

50 Great salvation he brings to his king, and shows steadfast love to his anointed, to David and his offspring forever.