

# Prepare ye the way of the Lord

Prepare ye the way of the Lord-John the Baptist(Elias) prepares for Christ's coming-How to prepare thought to recognize Christ

Wednesday, November 28, 2018

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## Hymns

Hymn 121

### **Hymn 121, 122**

WILLIAM GOODE\*

(121)

#### **MANOAH**

ARR. FROM GIOACCHINO A. ROSSINI

(122)

#### **WINCHESTER OLD**

ESTE'S PSALTER, 1592

How blest are they whose hearts are pure;  
From guile their thoughts are free,  
To them shall God reveal Himself,  
They shall His glory see.

They truly rest upon His word  
In fullest light of love;  
In this their trust, they ask no more  
Than guidance from above.

They who in faith unmixed with doubt  
Th' engrafted word receive,  
Whom every sign of heavenly power  
Persuades, and they believe,—

For them far greater things than these  
Doth Christ the Lord prepare;  
Whose bliss no human heart can reach,  
No human voice declare.

Hymn 176

### **Hymn 176**

**BASED ON THE DANISH OF**

NIKOLAJ F. S. GRUNDTVIG

(176)

#### **CHURCH**

LUDVIG M. LINDEMAN

Long hast thou stood, O church of God,  
Long mid the tempest's assailing,  
Founded secure on timeless rock  
Rises thy light, never failing;  
Shining that all may understand  
What has been wrought by God's command,  
O'er night and chaos prevailing.

Let there be light, and light was there,  
Clear as the Word that declared it;  
Healing and peace to all it gave,  
Who in humility shared it.  
Ah, they were faithful, they who heard,  
Steadfast their trust in God's great Word,  
Steadfast the Love that prepared it.

Let there be light, the Word shines forth,  
Lo, where the new morning whitens;  
O church of God, with Book unsealed,  
How its page beacons and brightens.  
Living stones we, each in his place,  
May we be worthy such a grace,  
While Truth the wide earth enlightens.

Hymn 123

### **Hymn 123**

"K" IN RIPPON'S SELECTION, 1787

*Adapted*

(123)

### **ADESTE FIDELES**

18TH CENTURY

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word.  
What more can He say than to you He hath said,  
To you who to God for your refuge have fled:

Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,  
For I am thy God, I will still give thee aid;  
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,  
Upheld by My gracious, omnipotent hand;

When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,  
My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply;  
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design  
Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.

1. Isa. 40:3

- 3 ¶ The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

2. Isa. 57:14 1st Cast

- 14 Cast ye up, cast ye up, prepare the way, take up the stumblingblock out of the way of my people.

3. Isa. 62:11 2nd Behold (to ;)

- 11 Behold, thy salvation cometh;

4. Mal. 3:1-3 (to :)

- 1 BEHOLD, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.
- 2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he *is* like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap:
- 3 And he shall sit *as* a refiner and purifier of silver:

5. Luke 1:5-8, 11-17, 23, 24 (to 1st ,), 57, 67, 76 1st thou, 79, 80

- 5 ¶ THERE was in the days of Herod, the king of Judæa, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife *was* of the daughters of Aaron, and her name *was* Elisabeth.
- 6 And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.
- 7 And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were *now* well stricken in years.
- 8 And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,
- 11 And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.
- 12 And when Zacharias saw *him*, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.
- 13 But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.
- 14 And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.
- 15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.
- 16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.

And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the  
17 hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of  
the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

23 And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were  
accomplished, he departed to his own house.

24 And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived,

57 Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she  
brought forth a son.

67 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied,  
saying,

76 thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go  
before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

79 To give light to them that sit in darkness and *in* the shadow of death, to  
guide our feet into the way of peace.

80 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till  
the day of his shewing unto Israel.

## 6. Matt. 3:1-17

1 IN those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of  
Judæa,

2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice  
of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his  
paths straight.

4 And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle  
about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judæa, and all the region round  
about Jordan,

6 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

7 ¶ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his  
baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you  
to flee from the wrath to come?

8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to *our* father:  
for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children  
unto Abraham.

10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree  
which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after  
me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall  
baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire:

- 12 Whose fan *is* in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.
- 13 ¶ Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.
- 14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?
- 15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer *it to be so* now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.
- 16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:
- 17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

#### 7. Matt. 11:2-6 when

- 2 when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples,
- 3 And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?
- 4 Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see:
- 5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.
- 6 And blessed is *he*, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

#### 8. Luke 7:24-28 (to :)

- 24 ¶ And when the messengers of John were departed, he began to speak unto the people concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind?
- 25 But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they which are gorgeously apparelled, and live delicately, are in kings' courts.
- 26 But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and much more than a prophet.
- 27 This is *he*, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.
- 28 For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist:

#### 9. Mark 6:1-6 he, 14 (to :)

- 1 he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him.
- 2 And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing *him* were astonished, saying, From whence hath this *man* these things? and what wisdom *is* this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?
- 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.
- 4 But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.
- 5 And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed *them*.
- 6 And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.
- 14 And king Herod heard *of him*; (for his name was spread abroad:)

#### 10. Luke 9:9

- 9 And Herod said, John have I beheaded: but who is this, of whom I hear such things? And he desired to see him.

#### 11. Mark 6:17, 18, 22, 24, 26, 27

- 17 For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her.
- 18 For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife.
- 22 And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel, Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give *it* thee.
- 24 And she went forth, and said unto her mother, What shall I ask? And she said, The head of John the Baptist.
- 26 And the king was exceeding sorry; *yet* for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her.
- 27 And immediately the king sent an executioner, and commanded his head to be brought: and he went and beheaded him in the prison,

#### 12. John 4:5-7, 9, 10, 13 Whosoever, 14, 19, 25 I, 26, 28, 29

- 5 Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.
- 6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with *his* journey, sat thus on the well: *and* it was about the sixth hour.

- 7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her,  
Give me to drink.
- 9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a  
Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have  
no dealings with the Samaritans.
- 10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and  
who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of  
him, and he would have given thee living water.
- 13 Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:
- 14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never  
thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water  
springing up into everlasting life.
- 19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.
- 25 I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he  
will tell us all things.
- 26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am *he*.
- 28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and  
saith to the men,
- 29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the  
Christ?

### 13. Matt. 17:1-3 Jesus, 5, 9-13

- 1 Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into  
an high mountain apart,
- 2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and  
his raiment was white as the light.
- 3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.
- 5 While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and  
behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in  
whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.
- 9 And as they came down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, saying,  
Tell the vision to no man, until the Son of man be risen again from the  
dead.
- 10 And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias  
must first come?
- 11 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and  
restore all things.
- 12 But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but  
have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of  
man suffer of them.
- 13 Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.

## 14. Mark 8:27-29

- 27 ¶ And Jesus went out, and his disciples, into the towns of Cæsarea Philippi: and by the way he asked his disciples, saying unto them, Whom do men say that I am?
- 28 And they answered, John the Baptist: but some say, Elias; and others, One of the prophets.
- 29 And he saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answereth and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ.

## 15. Job 11:13 prepare, 15 then, 17 1st thou

- 13 prepare thine heart, and stretch out thine hands toward him;
- 15 then shalt thou lift up thy face without spot; yea, thou shalt be stedfast, and shalt not fear:
- 17 thou shalt shine forth, thou shalt be as the morning.

## Science and Health

### 1. SH 561:32-3

John the Baptist prophesied the coming of the im-  
562:1 maculate Jesus, and John saw in those days the spiritual  
idea as the Messiah, who would baptize with the Holy  
3 Ghost, — divine Science.

Spiritual idea  
revealed

### 2. SH 27:1

27:1 Jesus sent a message to John the Baptist, which was in-  
tended to prove beyond a question that the Christ had  
3 come: “Go your way, and tell John what things ye have  
seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk,  
the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised,  
6 to the poor the gospel is preached.” In other words:  
Tell John what the demonstration of divine power is,  
and he will at once perceive that God is the power in  
9 the Messianic work.

### 3. SH 132:20-4

To-day, as of yore, unconscious of the  
21 reappearing of the spiritual idea, blind belief shuts the  
door upon it, and condemns the cure of the sick and sin-  
ning if it is wrought on any but a material and a doctrinal  
24 theory. Anticipating this rejection of idealism, of the  
true idea of God, — this salvation from all error, physi-  
cal and mental, — Jesus asked, “When the Son of man  
27 cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?”

Did the doctrines of John the Baptist confer healing  
power upon him, or endow him with the truest concep-  
30 tion of the Christ? This righteous preacher

once pointed his disciples to Jesus as “the Lamb of God;” yet afterwards he seriously questioned the signs of the Messianic appearing, and sent the inquiry to Jesus, “Art thou he that should come?”

John’s  
misgivings

3 Was John’s faith greater than that of the Samaritan woman, who said, “Is not this the Christ?”

Faith according  
to works

#### 4. SH 136:9-16, 20

9 The question then as now was, How did Jesus heal the sick? His answer to this question the world rejected.

He appealed to his students: “Whom do men say that I, the Son of man, am?” That is: Who or what is it that is thus identified with casting out evils and healing the sick? They replied, “Some say that thou art John the Baptist; some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.”

Ancient  
spiritualism

This ghostly fancy was repeated by Herod himself. That a wicked king and debauched husband should have no high appreciation of divine Science and the great work of the Master, was not surprising; for how could such a sinner comprehend what the disciples did not fully understand? But even Herod doubted if Jesus was controlled by the sainted preacher. Hence Herod’s assertion: “John have I beheaded: but who is this?” No wonder Herod desired to see the new Teacher.

#### 5. SH 585:9-14

9 **ELIAS.** Prophecy; spiritual evidence opposed to material sense; Christian Science, with which can be discerned the spiritual fact of whatever the material senses behold; the basis of immortality.

“Elias truly shall first come and restore all things.”  
(Matthew xvii. 11.)

#### 6. SH 322:3-7, 9

3 When understanding changes the standpoints of life and intelligence from a material to a spiritual basis, we shall gain the reality of Life, the control of Soul over sense, and we shall perceive Christianity, or Truth, in its divine Principle. It is highly important — in view of the immense work to be accomplished before this recognition of divine Science can come — to turn our thoughts towards divine Principle, that finite belief may be prepared to relinquish its error.

Standpoints  
changed

#### 7. SH 558:10-16, 17

9 To mortal sense

Science seems at first obscure, abstract, and  
12 dark; but a bright promise crowns its brow.  
When understood, it is Truth's prism and praise. When  
you look it fairly in the face, you can heal by its means,  
15 and it has for you a light above the sun, for God "is the  
light thereof." It brings the baptism of the Holy  
18 Ghost, whose flames of Truth were prophetically de-  
scribed by John the Baptist as consuming error.

#### 8. SH 61:9-11

Every valley of sin must be exalted, and every  
mountain of selfishness be brought low, that the highway  
of our God may be prepared in Science.

#### 9. SH 208:20

Let us learn  
21 of the real and eternal, and prepare for the reign of  
Spirit, the kingdom of heaven, — the reign and rule of  
universal harmony, which cannot be lost nor remain  
24 forever unseen.