

Cantata 1

1 melody Bm A G Bm A G Bm A G Bm A G

hour has come the time is now sal- vat- ion draws near- for

5 Em7 G/A A

God to arri- ve the

9 Bm A G Bm A G Bm A G Bm A G

place is here the signs are there for God- to a- ppear- to

13 Em7 G/A A

ans- wer our cry

17 Bm F# Em Bm F# Em Bm F# Em F

He will save the peo- ple from their sin

21 Bm F# Em Bm F# Em Bm F# Em F

He'll re deem His child- ren search for the lost

25 Em7+4 Em7 Em7+4 Em7

Je- sus the de- sire- of the a- ges

29 A/B B A/B B

promised Me- ss- iah God's on- ly Son

33 Em7+4 Em7 Em7+4 Em7

sent to us leaving hea- ven all be- hind-

37 A/B B A/B B

a- maz- ing love e- ter- nal grace

41 F#m7 B F#m7 B

sal- vat- ion made mer- cy di- vine

45 G2 G G/A

the love of God come- to us

49 Bm A G Bm A G Bm A G Bm A G

Imelodyv

Bb Bb/D Eb

arise shine for your light has

treble

bass

5 Eb/F Bb Bb/D Cm7

come arise the glo- ry of the Lord rises upon

9 Eb/F Bb Bb/D Eb

you arise shine for your light has

13 Eb/F Bb Bb/D Cm7

come above the darkness the Lord will a-

17 Eb/F Eb Bb

rise- o- ver you

21 Db Bbm Db

Don't be down cast lift up your eyes see Him on the

25 Db/Eb Db Bbm Gb2

cross forgiving sin rise up for the mess-iah has come for you

29 Db/Eb Eb/F

ne- ver cast out again

1 melody C Dm7

treble

bass

3 C/E F F/G G C Dm7

6 C/E F F/G G Am G

9 F C/E Dm7 C/E F F/G

12 C

a new day is dawning the

night gives way to the morn- ing the sun rises o- ver the

hills finally end ing the win- ter's chills a- wake from your slumber for sal-

vat-ion has been made God Himself has come to start a new

day

15 Am G/A D Em7

a new light is breaking cre-

17 D/F# G G/A A D Em7

a- tion is all a- wak- ing the dark- ness is banished for

20 D/F# G G/A A Bm A

good and we all fin- ally un- derstood di- vine love has saved us grace and

23 D/F# Em D/F# G G/A

mercy overcome sin suffers de- feat by God's only

26 D

Son

29 B A/B E F#m7

a new day begins and we

31 E/G# A A/B B

come to praise God with sing- ing our

33 E F#m7 E/G# A

past is for- given sins lost in the light of God's

35 A/B B C#m B

on- ly Son ho- sanna in the highest for the

37 A E/G# F#m7 E/G#

Lord has been so kind He gave all so

39 A A/B E

we might know His way-

41

School of Grace:

Reading: Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 21:1-9 see also Isaiah 60

Have you ever wondered why most people didn't accept Jesus as Messiah when he was on this earth?

Today we read the Old Testament and wonder how they could have missed it, but we are looking back. What if Jesus came today? Would we make the same mistakes?

Probably.

That is because we keep expecting a different 'messiah'. We want a messiah that justifies our positions. A messiah that frees us from our oppressors. A messiah that destroys our enemies. We want a messiah that accepts our 'light'. One that reinforces our position.

But Jesus never did that. The religious leaders all struggled to account for the life of Jesus. He didn't accept their authority. More than that, he criticized their beliefs and practices. Yet 'sinners' were profoundly drawn to Him. They had no authority. They had no status. Yet they were first on Jesus list.

The ones that hadn't read the scrolls. The ones who hadn't studied them at length. The ones who had now given up on the idea of a messiah. They couldn't save themselves. Why should someone else come?

The religious leaders had come to think that if humans became 'deserving' enough, then God might look favorably towards us, or at least look away from our 'bad'. But Jesus came precisely because we never deserved it. We never deserve forgiveness. We never deserve God. We never deserved God's sacrifice. God could see our sin. He wasn't the vengeful God sitting up waiting for us to fail. He already knew that we had failed. We couldn't even salvage a little bit of success.

Yet God looked at us. He didn't condemn us. He didn't destroy us in an instant. Instead he looked at us with eyes of love. He spoke words of forgiveness. He gave us Himself. Not just little pieces but his full life just for me. Just for you. We might have deserved God coming to visit to ask about our mistakes. To demand retribution. But to give us unconditional love even when we were at our very worst.

One of my favorite times of the day is the morning. If I have woken up early, one 'hears' the stillness outside. One sees light gradually come. You hear the birds start their songs for the day—one at a time. One feels content to simply stay in bed. To watch things unfold before your eyes. There is a calm tranquility that transcends peace. Eventually the sun gets up, and you hear those around getting up to start a new day. To go about the daily activities, following one's agenda and moving to a tight schedule.

Grace offers a new morning. Yesterday we had been doing all our activities. We had strived so hard for our dreams. We had tried to follow our plans but by the end of the day they had completely failed and a long, dark, cold night had ensued. We tried to sleep, hoping that if we wake up, we'll find it was all a dream. But sleep is impossible. We thought we were afraid of death. Now we find we are afraid of a failed life. We don't know what we are going to do the next day. There is nothing we can do. Even our best efforts won't make a dent in the cost we have to pay for yesterday.

It is then we find that God is right here. He wasn't concerned about our work. He was concerned about us all along. We find a new light breaking through. And we experience a new day—unlike anything we've ever seen before. We are not rushing about. We are content in the new-found knowledge of God's unconditional love, of absolute grace, of perfect mercy.

1st Sunday in Advent

**The hour has come the time is now
Salvation draws near for God to arrive
The place is here the signs are there
For God to appear to answer our cry**

**He will save the people from their sin
He'll redeem His children search for the lost**

**Jesus the desire of the ages promised messiah
God's only Son sent to us leaving heaven all behind
Amazing love eternal grace salvation made
Mercy divine the love of God come to us**

**Arise shine for your light has come
Arise the glory of the Lord rises upon you
Arise shine for your light has come
Above the darkness the Lord will arise over you**

**Don't be downcast lift up your eyes
See Him on the cross forgiving your sin
Rise up for the messiah has come for you
Never cast out again**

1st Sunday in Advent cont.

**A new day is dawning the night gives way to the morning
The sun rises over the hills finally ending the winter's chills
Awake from your slumber for salvation has been made
God Himself has come to start a new day**

**A new light is breaking creation is all awaking
The darkness is banished for good
And we all finally understood
Divine love has saved us grace and mercy overcome
Sin suffers defeat by God's only Son**

**A new day begins and we come to praise God with singing
Our past is forgiven sin lost in the light of God's only Son
Hosanna in the highest for the Lord has been so kind
He gave all so we might know His way**