

SASB #914 Prepare Me
(Old Song Book)

Your garments must be white as snow,
Prepare to meet your God;
For to his throne you'll have to go;
Prepare to meet your God.

*Prepare me, prepare me, Lord,
Prepare me to stand before thy throne.*

Prepare me now, prepare me here,
To stand before thy throne,
That I, without a doubt or fear,
May stand before thy throne.

Lord, cleanse my heart and make me pure,
To stand before thy throne;
My pride and self and temper cure,
To stand before thy throne.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING
**PREPARE YE
THE WAY**



TERRITORIAL PRAYER WAVE
November 6–12, 2016

Mobilize, is the word currently being used to call our territory to build up our spiritual health and wellness, to progress in discipleship and to engage in evangelism and mission. Prayer fuels this upward, onward and outward movement.

Therefore we encourage a PAUSE FOR PRAYER to prepare our hearts and minds for the Christmas season. Throughout the week of November 6 -12, 2016 Salvationists across our territory are invited to pray using this resource, *Prepare Ye The Way*. Individuals in homes and offices, gatherings of two or more in a variety of settings are encouraged to participate.

Praying together is an important activity as we prepare for Christ's return. We believe God has come into the world, Emmanuel, God with us (Matthew 1:23). We celebrate his coming throughout the Advent and Christmas season. We also believe He is coming again. The Apostle John in the book of Acts shares God's revelation. "Men of Galilee why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11). "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you - even Jesus. He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets" (Acts 3:19-21). "For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead" (Acts 17:31).

Advent is such a significant occasion and entering this season with a quiet and prepared soul is ideal. Before we pull out the decorations, solidify serenading and kettle schedules and firm up concert rehearsal dates let us bring ourselves before God that we might be made ready for His coming. The Negro spiritual says "Soon and very soon we are going to see the King".

Using the acronym A.C.T.S. (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication), The Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda Territory, is encouraged to set aside time to share in this corporate prayer. This work of prayer will ready us to receive the One who is coming and will prepare us to be a path upon which others are drawn to receive the coming LORD.

Shared by Territorial Spiritual Life Development

SASB# 225 Jesus Comes! Let all adore Him! (New Song Book)

Jesus comes! Let all adore Him!
Lord of mercy, love and truth.
Now prepare the way before Him,
Make the rugged places smooth;
Through the desert mark His road,
Make a highway for our God.

Jesus comes! Reward is with Him,
Let the valleys all be raised,
God's great glory now revealing
As the mountains are abased.
Lift thy voice and greet the Lord,
Cry to Zion: see thy God!

Jesus comes! Where thorns have flourished
Trees shall now be seen to grow,
'Stablished by the Lord and nourished,
Strong and fair and fruitful too.
They shall rise on every side,
Spread their branches far and wide.

Jesus comes! From barren mountains
Rivers shall begin to flow,
There the Lord will open fountains
And supply the plains below;
As He passes every land
Shall acclaim His powerful hand.

Thank God for this season of opportunity in which we now live. God says, “At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you. Indeed, the “right time” is now. Today is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2).

Thank God that He is not slow or forgetful. “The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you [us], not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). God is waiting to bring more people into His kingdom, and then at the appointed hour, Jesus Christ will return.

Thank God... Add your own list of thanksgiving.

Prayers of Supplication

As we lift prayer and supplication (petitions) in our preparation for the coming of Christ we turn again to the Scriptures.

Pray that we put on the full armour of God (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Pray that we live wisely (Ephesians 5:15-21)

Pray that we are found doing His will.

Jesus in Matthew 7:24 said, “Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.” James 1:22 says, “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” The Old Testament prophet Obadiah prophesied, “The day of the LORD is near for all nations. As you have done, it will be done to you; your deeds will return upon your own head” (1:15). Therefore we ask the Lord to **give us strength to do His will**. We might hear our LORD say, “well done my good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:23). May it be so.

Pray that we are found faithful (Matthew 25:14-30).

When we are waiting for the arrival of someone we prop the door open, we look out the window, we are watchful. Watch and pray. Jesus said, “Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” Read Revelation 22. If anything would cause hesitancy in our saying, “**Come, Lord Jesus, Come**” ask the Lord to deal with us in that area that we would rejoice with great joy at His coming.

Pray that we will be among those who “long for his appearing” (2 Timothy 4:8). This too is a work of God. God stir up in our hearts a hunger and thirst for righteousness (Matthew 5:6).

No one who comes to a corporate prayer meeting with an urgent, immediate personal need should have to go away without the support of the prayers of God’s people. Therefore, pray for one another.

Pray...

Adoration - Worship and Praise

We begin our territorial corporate prayer with worship. Worship is an expression of our **adoration**, deep love and devotion to God. The songbook is a wonderful aid to worship. It doesn’t matter whether we turn to a current worship song or one from the 1500’s; sung worship is a spiritual pathway which opens us to God and breaks strongholds in our hearts and minds.

The International Salvation Army devotional resource *Words of Life* shared the following on July 17, 2016:

The Splendor of the King (SASB 64) speaks of our majestic Lord Jesus, in all his ‘splendor’ and ‘majesty’. The whole earth rejoicing, even trembling, in awe of his voice. Why? Because our God is so awesome:

*The Splendor of the King, clothed in majesty;
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide,
And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.
How Great is our God!*

Chris Tomlin, along with Jesse Reeves and Ed Cash, released this song in 2004. It became one of the top worship songs, mainly because it is theologically sound. Also, because it speaks of a day when there will be peace on earth – the lion, the lamb, living together in harmony; a day when good will triumph over evil. Hallelujah!

How we need to hear these words of hope and assurance in these days of constant turmoil and upheaval. Yes, indeed, our God is great – and so worthy of our adoration. The song continues,

*Age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;
Beginning and the end, beginning and the end.
The Godhead, three in one, Father, Spirit, Son,
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb,
Name above all names, worthy of all praise;
My heart will sing how great is our God.*

Praise pleases God. It draws us near to Him and it releases great spiritual power.

Let’s sing the song and voice out loud our adoration.

In 2 Chronicles 5:13-14 we are told that as the people of God lifted their praise a tangible display of God's presence fell upon them. Let's share the words of scripture:

"Then the temple of the LORD was filled with the cloud, and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple of God." LORD, we pray that our praise will result in a filling; that you will come and fill us – the temple of Your Holy Spirit

(1 Corinthians 6:19).

For this we long, "groaning in holy anticipation as we await Your great and glorious coming" (Romans 8:22-23).

"The LORD is good and his love endures forever."

In 2 Chronicles 20:21 mobilization began with adoration and praise. Singers led the forward movement, lifting praises to the LORD.

Sing or pray SASB# 225 Jesus Comes! Let all adore Him! (New Song Book)

Prayers of Confession

When ancient kings journeyed to towns and cities messengers would go ahead of the king's entourage calling out "prepare the roads for the coming king." The work of preparation involved clearing debris, filling in pot holes, rising up valleys, lowering steep hills and making paths clear, safe, ready to receive the coming king.

And so we read in scripture, a voice in the desert calling "Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it" (Isaiah 40:3-5).

During November we are conscious of a coming. The season of Advent, the four Sunday's prior to Christmas, is just around the corner. The word advent actually means "coming" and is a time to remember the first coming of Christ and to anticipate His second and glorious coming.

In all four gospels we read of John the Baptist who called people to "prepare the way of the LORD." The work of preparation John called for was not of roads but of hearts. John the Baptist called for a spiritual house cleaning.

To prepare the way of the Lord is to do the work of repentance. John the Baptist called out "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near" (Matthew 3:3). The first step of repentance is to review our lives in God's presence.

Ask God to help us see, to bring to our awareness any mountains that need clearing away, sins of commission, things we have done that we ought not to have done. What needs to be taken from us in order to be prepared for the coming of Christ?

Ask God to bring to our awareness any valleys that need raising up, sins of omission, things we ought to have done but failed to do. What do we need to add to our lives in order to be prepared for the coming of Jesus?

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me... (Psalm 139: 23,24)

-any resistance to doing what is loving, or kind, or forgiving

-any angry outburst, hurtful word or action

- any resistance to welcoming God as Saviour, Lord, King

- any resistance to obey what you know is good and right

- any paralysing fear rooted in doubt

- any brokenness or wounding

- any pride, selfishness, coveting...

Turn in surrender to the Lord praying, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10). Let's pause for silent confession.

The work of spiritual house cleaning is done best in community; joining ourselves to a group of people who are intentionally preparing their hearts and lives for the coming of Jesus. Jesus told a story about some who were prepared and some who were not. Spend some time reading Matthew 25:1-10. Read it over several times and ask God to reveal your current state; which group you most reflect.

Prepare me [us], prepare me [us], Lord to stand before thy throne.

Prepare me [us] now, prepare me [us] here, to stand before thy throne,

That I [we], without a doubt or fear, may stand before thy throne.

Lord, cleanse my [our] heart and make me [us] pure, to stand before thy throne;

my [our] pride and self and temper cure, to stand before thy throne.

(SASB 914—Old Song Book)

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Thank God for the assurance of his coming. In John 14:2-3 Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

Thank God for the hope of welcoming Jesus into cleaned and readied lives, "May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

Thank God for the hope that our lives can become a path upon which others learn of and prepare for the coming of Jesus, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).