

**Entrance: Prepare Ye**

***Prepare ye, the way of the Lord. Prepare ye, the way of the Lord.***

**Preparation of the Gifts: Hark a herald voice** (6<sup>th</sup> century tr E Caswall )

Hark! a herald voice is calling: 'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;  
'cast away the dreams of darkness, O ye children of the day!'

Startled at the solemn warning, let the earth-bound soul arise;  
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven;  
let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven;

So when next he comes with glory, wrapping all the earth in fear,  
may he then as our defender of the clouds of heaven appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit, to the Father and the Son,  
with the co-eternal Spirit, while unending ages run.

**Communion: The cry of the poor** (John B Foley SJ © New Dawn Music)

***The Lord hears the cry of the poor, blessed be the Lord.***

I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise ever in my mouth.  
Let my soul glory in the Lord, for he hears the cry of the poor.

Let the lowly hear and be glad: the Lord listens to their pleas;  
and to hearts broken he is near, for he hears the cry of the poor.

Ev'ry spirit crushed he will save; will be ransom for their lives;  
will be safe shelter for their fears, for he hears the cry of the poor.

We proclaim the greatness of God, his praise ever in our mouth;  
every face brightened in his light, for he hears the cry of the poor.