

## FAREWELL TO ALLELUIA

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, when we next gather for worship, it will be Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. On that day we will begin our solemn journey to the Savior's cross. While the joy of faith remains undiminished throughout the year, our rejoicing during Lent is muted and quiet. For centuries, therefore, Christian churches have omitted their most jubilant songs during this season, including the word *alleluia*, which means, "praise the Lord."

Now for a time we say farewell to *alleluia*. We do this to prepare ourselves for the quieter days of Lent. The *alleluias* will return on Easter dawn as we gather to shout our praise to the risen Lord.

### 977 Alleluia, Song of Triumph

CW 977



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of tri - umph, sound of joy that  
2 Al - le - lu - ia we are sing - ing, voic - ing hymns in  
3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while  
4 May our hymns be filled with long - ing— hear us, Ho - ly



can - not die; al - le - lu - ia is the an - them  
pure ac - cord, with Christ's ho - ly Church u - nit - ed,  
here be - low; al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions  
Trin - i - ty— as we look to your blest East - er,



ev - er dear to choirs on high; saints a - dorned in  
jus - ti - fied, re - deemed, re - stored, and with all his  
make us for a while for - go. For the sol - emn  
here, and then e - ter - nal - ly, when we shall once



robes of glo - ry join the great an - gel - ic cry.  
faith - ful peo - ple raise our songs to praise the Lord.  
time is com - ing when our tears for sin must flow.  
more be sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly!

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## Prayer of the Church—TRANSFIGURATION

Eternal God and Father, we pray for the Church around the world. Always keep your people faithful to you. Lift the veil from our eyes and guide us to see Christ in the Word and sacraments. During all the distractions of life, help us set our sights on Jesus. Keep us safe and protect us from the tricks and treachery of the devil. Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray that you move us to have compassion on those stumbling in the darkness and empower us to proclaim Christ to all who have no faith. Give us courage to be unashamed of the light you have given us and to carry it willingly with joy wherever we go and whatever we do. Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer.**

Hear our prayers for Christians everywhere who are being persecuted because of the light they bear. Give them the strength to endure the hardships they are undergoing and give them the peace and hope of Christ as they battle on. [We pray especially for...*here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray that Christ reveals his gracious presence to all who suffer. We pray especially for our families and those in our circle of friends who are sick or in need and for everyone whose needs we hold in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer.**

Be with us, Lord, as we think about the coming days of Lent. Let your law convince us that we indeed deserve your punishment and would be lost forever without Christ. As our hearts fill with sorrow and regret, lift us up to see the Savior's sacrifice on the cross and give us hearts full of faith in him. Lord, in your mercy:

**Hear our prayer.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Lord God, hear the prayers we offer and let your grace and mercy flow to us and all for whom we pray. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Light of the world.

**Amen.**

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