

**Hymn No. 804 – “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!”**

1 Rejoice, ye pure in heart!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!  
Your festal banner wave on high,  
the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

2 With voice as full and strong  
as ocean's surging praise,  
send forth the sturdy hymns of old,  
the psalms of ancient days. (Refrain)

3 Yes, on through life's long path,  
still chanting as ye go,  
from youth to age, by night and day,  
in gladness and in woe:

4 At last the march shall end;  
the wearied ones shall rest;  
the pilgrims find their home at last,  
Jerusalem the blest. (Refrain)

5 Then on, ye pure in heart!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!  
Your festal banner wave on high,  
the cross of Christ your King. (Refrain)

**Hymn No. 171 – “A Sower Came from Ancient Hills”**

1 A Sower came from ancient hills  
and cast good seed abroad:  
his field, ten thousand human hearts;  
his seed, the word of God.  
And some who listened would not hear,  
and some who heard forgot.  
But some received in fertile soil  
the truth the Sower taught.

2 A Sower walked throughout the land  
and, everywhere he trod,  
he sowed his life because he was  
himself the Seed of God.  
But then, atop a barren hill,  
beneath a darkening sky,  
they threw God's Seed on stony ground  
and left it there to die.

3 The Seed was buried deep in death  
beneath a blood-red sky,  
and deeper still was buried hope  
for those who watched him die.  
But then, in Joseph's garden fair,  
as dawn broke o'er the land,  
the Seed, from three days' silent sleep,  
awoke at God's command!

4 O Christ, you come among us still,  
the Sower and the Seed.  
As once you sowed the truth of God  
in glowing word and deed,  
implant your Word in waiting hearts,  
and let it there take hold,  
until it bears in fruitful lives  
a harvest hundredfold.

### **Hymn No. 821– “My Life Flows On”**

1 My life flows on in endless song,  
above earth’s lamentation.  
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn  
that hails a new creation.

Refrain:

No storm can shake my inmost calm  
while to that Rock I’m clinging.  
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,  
how can I keep from singing?

2 Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear that music ringing.  
It finds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing? (Refrain)

3 What though my joys and comforts die?  
I know my Savior liveth.  
What though the darkness gather round?  
Songs in the night he giveth. (Refrain)

4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,  
a fountain ever springing!  
All things are mine since I am his!  
How can I keep from singing? (Refrain)

### **Mark 4:26-34**

And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.”

He said to them, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand? For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. Let anyone with ears to hear listen!” And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.”

He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.”

He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

### **1 Samuel 15:34-16:13**

Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel. The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.