

Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3-5 and Psalm 24:7-10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

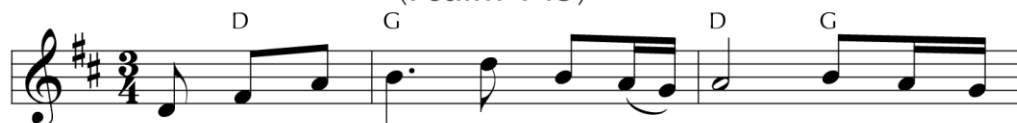
TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.

MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930
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BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

O Lord, You Are My God and King 270

(Psalm 145)



1 O Lord, you are my God and King, and I will
 2 How rich in grace are you, O Lord, full of com -
 3 Your works will give you thanks, O Lord; your saints your



ev - er bless your name; I will ex - tol you ev - ery day, and
 pas - sion, mer - ci - ful, your an - ger al - ways slow to rise; your
 might - y acts will show, till all the peo - ples of the earth your



ev - er - more your praise pro - claim. You, Lord, are great - ly
 stead - fast love you show to all, for you are good in
 king - dom, pow - er, glo - ry know. E - ter - nal is your



to be praised; your great - ness is be - yond our thought; all
 all your ways; your crea - tures know your con - stant care. To
 king - dom, Lord, for - ev - er strong, for - ev - er sure; while



gen - er - a - tions shall tell forth the might - y won - ders you have wrought.
 all your works your love ex - tends; all souls your ten - der mer - cies share.
 gen - er - a - tions rise and die, your high do - min - ion will en - dure.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Although this paraphrase of Psalm 145 is abbreviated (the original psalm has a verse for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet), it maintains the tone of praise that characterizes the final six psalms. In fact, the whole book takes its Hebrew name, *Tehillim* (praises), from them.

CONFESSION

418 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain
 watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. "Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

This 19th-century gospel hymn has often been used as a hymn of invitation at evangelistic services. Its imagery is primarily based on Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11-32, commonly called "The Prodigal Son." Each singer thus becomes a wandering child who is urged to return home.