



## HYMN PREVIEW

# In This Holy, Blest Communion

### **Note to Worship Planners:**

This week's Hymnal Highlight brings mostly some ideas for long-range planning. The Year C Planner (available at [The Foundation](#)) mentioned two new canticles for last January 6, for an evening Epiphany service. But it's not likely that most congregations made use of that option. The most likely first use of these new evening songs is then Advent 2022. Gladdening Light appears in Evening Prayer (page 216). A metrical version of the Magnificat to a popular Scottish folk tune is hymn 956; this could replace versions on pages 218 or 220. The other evening service, Compline, is the only regular place now for the Song of Simeon (page 231) unless that canticle is added to the end of a communion service. There are three versions of the Song of Simeon: 949–951. 949 is Martin Luther's version set to new music by WELS composer Ian Welch.

Welch's setting, Gladdening Light, and the Scottish folk tune Magnificat are all featured in [online.nph.net/the-extraordinary-ordinary.html](https://online.nph.net/the-extraordinary-ordinary.html). As pastors and musicians make long-range worship plans, consider how one of these canticles can be substituted in an evening service and how the music from *The Extraordinary Ordinary* can be featured in the service. The link provides an audio sample for Gladdening Light and preview pages of others.

Other newer resources are listed next along with dates for certain hymns suggested in the Year C Planner.

- [online.nph.net/alive-in-christ-repentant-raised-refreshed.html](https://online.nph.net/alive-in-christ-repentant-raised-refreshed.html): Sept 11, 833 – “I Run to Christ,” from a new organ collection.
- [online.nph.net/i-run-to-christ-durow.html](https://online.nph.net/i-run-to-christ-durow.html): Sept 11, 833 - a new choral setting released in May 2022.
- [online.nph.net/songs-from-the-spirit-piano.html](https://online.nph.net/songs-from-the-spirit-piano.html): Contains numerous settings for piano that can be considered in long-range planning.

If the organist doesn't yet have these volumes, consider adding them to a bulk summer order from NPH that covers new music for choir, vocalists, school, and keyboard players. For encouragement to order ALL music from NPH (not only NPH publications), see *Worship the Lord* #103, “NPH Is Your Partner”: [worship.welsrc.net/download-worship/worship-the-lord-hymnal-introduction-series/](https://worship.welsrc.net/download-worship/worship-the-lord-hymnal-introduction-series/)

One Christmas item to consider for long-range planning: [online.nph.net/lord-you-were-rich-beyond-all-splendor.html](https://online.nph.net/lord-you-were-rich-beyond-all-splendor.html). Since the tune is a traditional French tune, keyboard players are likely to have settings

available, for example one by Paul Manz (Set VII in the original CPH series, also available from MorningStar).

And one new communion hymn, “In This Holy, Blessed Communion,” (CW 669) is set to the tune SUO GAN, a gentle Welsh tune. A Baptism hymn, 647, also uses this tune. Here is one setting for organ: *The Eventide Collection*, by Franklin Ashdown (CPH, but can be ordered through NPH). The setting heard in video from the 2019 synod convention (below) is by Thomas Quigley from 2014.

For additional long-ranging planning help, search NPH’s website for the following to find keyboard and choral music based on new tunes: cw21keyboard, cw21choral: [online.nph.net](http://online.nph.net). This includes two additional volumes that feature SUO GAN.

The following message can be shared a week or two before first use of the SUO GAN communion hymn.

**Message:**

This hymn reflects the three communions that can be spoken of in the Sacrament of the Altar: the communion of the physical elements with the body and blood of Christ (st. 1); the communion of the Savior and the sinner (st. 2); and the communion of communicants with each other (st. 3). This theme of the three communions is further brought out by the appearance of the word “join” in each stanza. The tune is well-known in some circles as a lullaby. Its name, SUO GAN, translates as “Soothing Song,” a comforting reminder of the promises God gives in the Sacrament. You can hear a version here: [youtube.com/watch?v=whKw72731L8](https://youtube.com/watch?v=whKw72731L8). And two examples from the WELS synod convention in 2019 here: [vimeo.com/718345794/93bf030334](https://vimeo.com/718345794/93bf030334). The tune was used in Steven Spielberg’s movie *Empire of the Sun*.