

# O Word of God Incarnate

1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,  
 2 The church from you, dear Sav - ior, re - ceived this gift di - vine;  
 3 O make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of pur - est gold

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:  
 and still that light is lift - ed on all the earth to shine.  
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;

we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,  
 It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,  
 O teach your wan - dering pil - grims by this our path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.  
 a - mid the rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.  
 till, clouds and storms thus end - ed, we see you face to face.

The opening four lines of this hymn celebrate attributes of Christ that are revealed through holy Scripture, which serves as a lantern, a chart, and a compass for the church in seeking to know Christ better. The setting is by the composer, Friedrich Schütz.

# 460 Break Thou the Bread of Life

1 Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,  
 2 Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, un - to me,

as thou didst break the loaves be - side the sea.  
 as thou didst bless the bread by Gal - i - lee.

Be - yond the sa - cred page I seek thee, Lord.  
 Then shall all bond - age cease, all fet - ters fall.

My spir - it pants for thee, O liv - ing Word!  
 And I shall find my peace, my all in all.

The phrase "bread of life" as a metaphor for scripture has misled many people into thinking of this hymn as being connected with the Lord's Supper, when its true subject is Bible study. Both the author and the composer were active in the work of the Chautauqua Assembly.

# Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the Gal - i -  
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a qui - et  
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in faith we  
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us in your

le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of Life from heav - en, was their  
 room one night. In the bread and wine you gave them, Christ, you  
 gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the a - ges: "I am  
 name to share bread for which the mil - lions hun - ger, words that

*Guitar chords in Pew Edition do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

food came with tell for - ev - er - more.  
 as Light from do not fear!" you; your love and care.  
 By your bod - y bro - ken

for us, by your wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a -

gain your peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

The first two stanzas of this text deal with events in the past (the feeding of the multitude and the Last Supper) and the final two with events in the present. The recurring last four lines of each stanza serve as an affirmation of Christ's continuing presence at all times.

## 2 Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor

1 Judge E - ter - nal, throned in splen - dor, Lord of lords and  
 2 Still the wea - ry folk are pin - ing for the hour that  
 3 Crown, O God, your own en - deav - or; cleave our dark - ness

King of kings, with your liv - ing fire of judg - ment  
 brings re - lease, and the cit - y's crowd - ed clang - or  
 with your sword; feed the faith - less and the hun - gry

purge this land of bit - ter things; so - lace all its  
 cries a - loud for sin to cease, and the home - steads  
 with the rich - ness of your word; cleanse the bod - y

wide do - min - ion with the heal - ing of your wings.  
 and the wood - lands plead in si - lence for their peace.  
 of this na - tion through the glo - ry of the Lord.

More than a century after it was written, this plea for national purification has lost none of its power, nor has it need for social justice grown less acute. It is set to a traditional Welsh tune named for a long-inhabited town in north Wales overlooking the River Clywd.

## 343 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the  
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad - oved  
 3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man  
 4 The cup of wa - ter given for you still holds the

cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of  
 thresh - olds and fears, from paths where hide the  
 grief and bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from  
 fresh - ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -

self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.  
 lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.  
 sor - row's stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.  
 tudes to view the sweet com - pas - sion of your face.

5 O Master, from the mountainside,  
 make haste to heal these hearts of pain;  
 among these restless throngs abide;  
 O tread the city's streets again;

6 Till all the world shall learn your love,  
 and follow where your feet have trod;  
 till glorious from your heaven above  
 shall come the city of our God.

Because dense populations always result in concentrated hardships, this vivid yet timeless evocation of urban need connects to our own day as well as to Jesus' lament over Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37/Luke 13:34). This tune was the first used with this text and is now customary.