

(Topics and Lead-in Below)

Justice Hymn

TUNE: Christ the Lord Is Risen Today (EASTER HYMN, alt.)
Deuteronomy 32:3-4; Psalm 145; Isaiah 1:17; 11:1-9; Amos 5:24;
Micah 6:8; Matthew 6:9-10; Mark 13:32-37; Romans 13:8-10

♩ = 84

C G/B C F E/C C C C^{sus}/D C/E Dm⁷ FM⁷ F C/G G G⁷ C

1. God of wis - dom, pa - tient, kind, Jus - tice is to be like You.
2. Christ, the Fa - ther's hu - man face, Jus - tice is to love like You.
3. As we work and watch and wait, Fa - ther God, Your King - dom come!

E/A C F C/E Dm⁷ Dm⁷ Am⁷ C/G G C C^{sus}/D C/E Dm⁷ FM⁷ F C/G G G⁷ C

Good - ness, mer - cy un - con - fined, Jus - tice is to be like You.
Rich com - pas - sion, tire - less grace, Jus - tice is to love like You.
Cleanse, re - new, and re - cre - ate - Fa - ther God, Your King - dom come!

G D^{sus}/A D⁷/A G/B G G/F C/E G⁷/D G⁷/D C G G^{sus}/A G/B Am⁷ CM⁷ C G/D D D⁷ G G/D

Joy - ful giv - er, glad to share, Jus - tice is to be like You.
Heal - ing bod - y, heart, and mind, Jus - tice is to love like You.
Bless our world with love's in - crease! Fa - ther God, Your King - dom come!

WORDS: Ken Bible
MUSIC: *Lyra Davidica* (1708) and Ken Bible

EASTER HYMN 2
7.7.7.D.

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G G⁹ sus G G⁹ F C⁹ E C C M⁷ F F⁹ C C C C⁹ E F Dm⁷ C⁹ G G G⁷ C

Fear - less love and ten - der care, Jus - tice is to be like You.
 Ho - ly, truth - ful, deep - ly kind, Jus - tice is to love like You.
 First Your jus - tice, then Your peace. Fa - ther God, Your King - dom come!

TOPICS: Justice; God's Love; Kingdom of God; Life of Christ; Relationships;
 Serving in Christ's Name

LEAD-IN: *Oh, praise the greatness of our God!
 He is the Rock, his works are perfect,
 and all his ways are just.
 A faithful God who does no wrong,
 upright and just is He.
 The Lord is righteous in all his ways
 and loving toward all he has made.
 (Deuteronomy 32:3-4; Psalm 145:17, NIV)*

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

Justice

How do we know what is just and right in any particular situation? What is justice after all?

We usually think of justice as a certain standard of fairness, of right and wrong. We say that God is just because He consistently adheres to that standard.

But God is the creator and source of all. There is no separate standard of justice to which we compare Him. There is no outside set of rules by which He must abide in order to be “just”. He Himself is the standard of justice. Justice flows from His character and is seen in all His actions. We say that He is just because we see that He is always consistent with Himself. His actions are always consistent with His perfect wisdom and perfect love.

So how can we understand justice and live just lives?

We are just when we are like Him. Our actions are just when we act like Him.

We often think of justice and mercy as opposites...or at least as two competing values that must be balanced. We see justice as absolute rightness, and mercy as a kindly compromise with justice. But when we realize that justice and mercy are both descriptions of God’s nature, we see them not as opposites to be balanced. They are two facets of the same jewel. God is always merciful and always just.

Thus when we are called to seek justice in this unjust world, we are not called to a specific social agenda. We are called to think and live and be like God. We are called to be holy as He is holy, to live and speak the truth as He is the truth, to love as He loves. We are called to be His children, His ambassadors, His servants, His hands.

The Old Testament beautifully pictures our just and loving God, relaying His words and actions over many centuries. But He is most completely revealed in Jesus Christ. He is *the image of the invisible God* (Colossians 1:15) and *the exact representation of His being* (Hebrews 1:3). What is more, Christ enables us not only to see and know God, but to live in Him, and He in us. He gives us the Spirit of God so that by simple faith, we can live just and loving lives in this present world. Through His people, and above His people, God is creating the just world that He has promised.