

## COME

Isaiah 55:1-3 “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.”

Imagine you are entering the public market where there are countless individuals selling their goods. Booths are everywhere. From those booths come loud voices pleading with the shoppers to “come.” Come is their invitation to the shoppers to come to their booth to examine what they have to sell.

Isaiah 55:1-3 uses the word “come” in exactly the way described in the previous paragraph. Water, wine, milk and bread were common items in these markets. Isaiah’s invitation to “come, buy and eat” was far different. He wrote, this market required no money. Isaiah’s invitation is to salvation’s banquet prepared by God’s Servant (Jesus.) It is not restricted to the elite (those who can pay) but is prepared for all (money not required.)

No one is forced to come to this salvation banquet. Those who hear the invitation, but decline, may never hear this invitation again. Nevertheless, the “suffering Servant” has already paid the price of admission for everyone, rich and poor alike. “Jesus said, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. . . All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. . .” (John 6:35-37)

This banquet is waiting for you. You have the Lord’s invitation, “And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ And he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.’” (Revelation 21:5-6) Come, Jesus says and I will give you life and give it to you abundantly. (John 10:10)

Prayer: O Lord, give me faith to, as you have invited, COME to the eternal banquet You have prepared for me to enjoy purchased for me by Your Son Jesus. In His name. Amen.

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my secures;  
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;  
His grace has brought me safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And mortal life shall cease,  
Amazing grace shall then prevail In heaven's joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.  
(LSB 744)