

## - call to worship

Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. I Revelation 22:12–13

## - medicación

The successes of the Saviour, brought about by His incarnation, are of such kind and magnitude that, if one wished to go through them all, it would be like those who gaze at the expanse of the sea and try to count its waves. For as it is impossible to take in all the waves with the eye, their multitudinous approach transcending the perception of him who attempts it, so also is it impossible for him who wishes to take in all the successes of

Christ in the body, to grasp the whole even by counting them, those which transcend his apprehension being more than those he thinks he has taken in. Better were it, therefore, not to attempt to speak of the whole, when one cannot give worthy expression even to a part; but to mention yet one, and to leave you to marvel at the whole. For all are equally wonderful, and wherever one turns one's eyes, there one sees the Divine working of the Word, and is beyond measure astonished. I Athanasius

## - reflection

Athanasius, who was part of the Council of Nicea in AD 325, seems to say that we think too little of the successes of Jesus and His incarnation. We too often simplify things for easy understanding but then never expand on those ideas. If we made a list of all the successes of Jesus' life and death, we wouldn't be able to see the end of it, just like looking out at an expansive ocean. John originates this thought in the last chapter of his Gospel. "Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." — John 21.25 In what ways are you thinking too little of Jesus' life and atoning death? Ask the Spirit to open your eyes to the excellencies of Christ today.

## - hymn of praise

O come, divine Messiah;
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph
And sadness flee away.
Dear Savior, haste! Come, come to earth.
Dispel the night and show your face,
and bid us hail the dawn of grace.
O come, divine Messiah;
the world in silence waits the day

when hope shall sing its triumph and sadness flee away.

O Christ, whom nations sigh for,

Whom priest and prophet long foretold,

Come, break the captive's fetters,

Redeem the long-lost fold.

You come in peace and meekness

And lowly will your cradle be;

All clothed in human weakness

Shall we your Godhead see. I Simon-Joseph