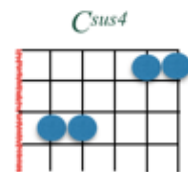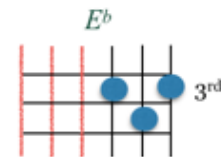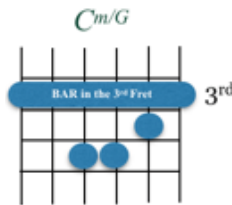# Savior of the Nations, Come
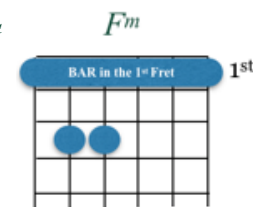
Words Ambrose of Milan & Music by Jonathan Walther

*C*m/G   *E*b   *G*   *C*m/G
Savior of the Nations, come.
    *F*m   *G*   *C*m/G
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
    *G*m   *C*sus4   *C*m/G
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,
    *E*b   *G*   *C*m/G
That the Lord chose such a birth.

*C*m/G   *E*b   *G*   *C*m/G
Not by human flesh and blood,
    *F*m   *G*   *C*m/G
By the Spirit of our God,
    *G*m   *C*sus4   *C*m/G
Was the Word of God made flesh;
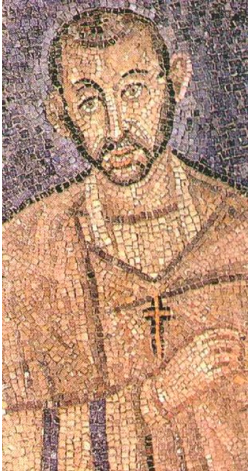   *E*b   *G*   *C*m/G
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.

*C*m/G   *E*b   *G*   *C*m/G
Then stepped forth the Lord of all,
    *F*m   *G*   *C*m/G
From His pure and kingly hall;
    *G*m   *C*sus4   *C*m/G
God of God, yet fully man,
    *E*b   *G*   *C*m/G
His heroic course began.

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*C*m/G   *E*b   *G*   *C*m/G
Glory to the Father sing,
    *F*m   *G*   *C*m/G
Glory to the Son, our king,
    *G*m   *C*sus4   *C*m/G
Glory to the Spirit be,
      *E*b   *G*   *C*m/G
Now and through eternity.

*C*m/G   *E*b   *G*   *C*m/G
God the Father was His source,
    *F*m   *G*   *C*m/G
Back to God He ran His course.
    *G*m   *C*sus4   *C*m/G
Into hell His road went down,
      *E*b   *G*   *C*m/G
Back then to His throne a crown.

Chord diagrams: Cm/G (BAR in the 3rd Fret — 3rd), Eb (3rd), Csus4, Fm (BAR in the 1st Fret — 1st)

Scripture and History

Isaiah 65:14. My servants shall shout for joy of heart,
But you shall cry out for grief of heart, and howl for anguish of spirit.

Aurelius Ambrosias (c. 340 – 397) wrote the lyrics for "**Savior of the Nations, Come**". He was the Roman governor of Liguria and Emilia, headquartered in Milan. Better known in English as Ambrose, he became a bishop of Milan at the death of the former bishop Auxentius, who was a member of the Arian party promoting the non-trinitarian view of God.

The church in which the election for bishop was held was so filled with excited people that Ambrose found it necessary to take steps to preserve the peace, exhorting the crowd to peace and order. A voice suddenly exclaimed, "Ambrose is Bishop," and the cry was taken up on all sides. He was compelled to accept the post, though still only a catechumen; and was forthwith baptized, and within a week consecrated Bishop, Dec. 7, 374. He became one of the most influential ecclesiastical figures of the 4th century. Ambrose was a staunch opponent of Arianism.

Ambrose was one of the four original Doctors of the Church, and is notable for his influence on Augustine of Hippo.

Early mosaic of Ambrose that might be an actual portrait
Image from Wikipedia

Traditionally, Ambrose is credited with promoting "antiphonal chant", a style of chanting in which one side of the choir responds alternately to the other. In addition to others, he composed the Advent hymn, "**Veni redemptor gentium**". The hymn was particularly popular in Germany where Martin Luther translated it into German as "**Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland**", "**Savior of the Nations, Come**". Johann Gottfried Walther or Luther created the chorale, based on the original plainchant.

Wikipedia and hymnary.org

Johann Gottfried Walther, German music theorist, organist, composer, and lexicographer of the Baroque era.
Image from Wikipedia

Martin Luther (1529) by Lucas Cranach the Elder