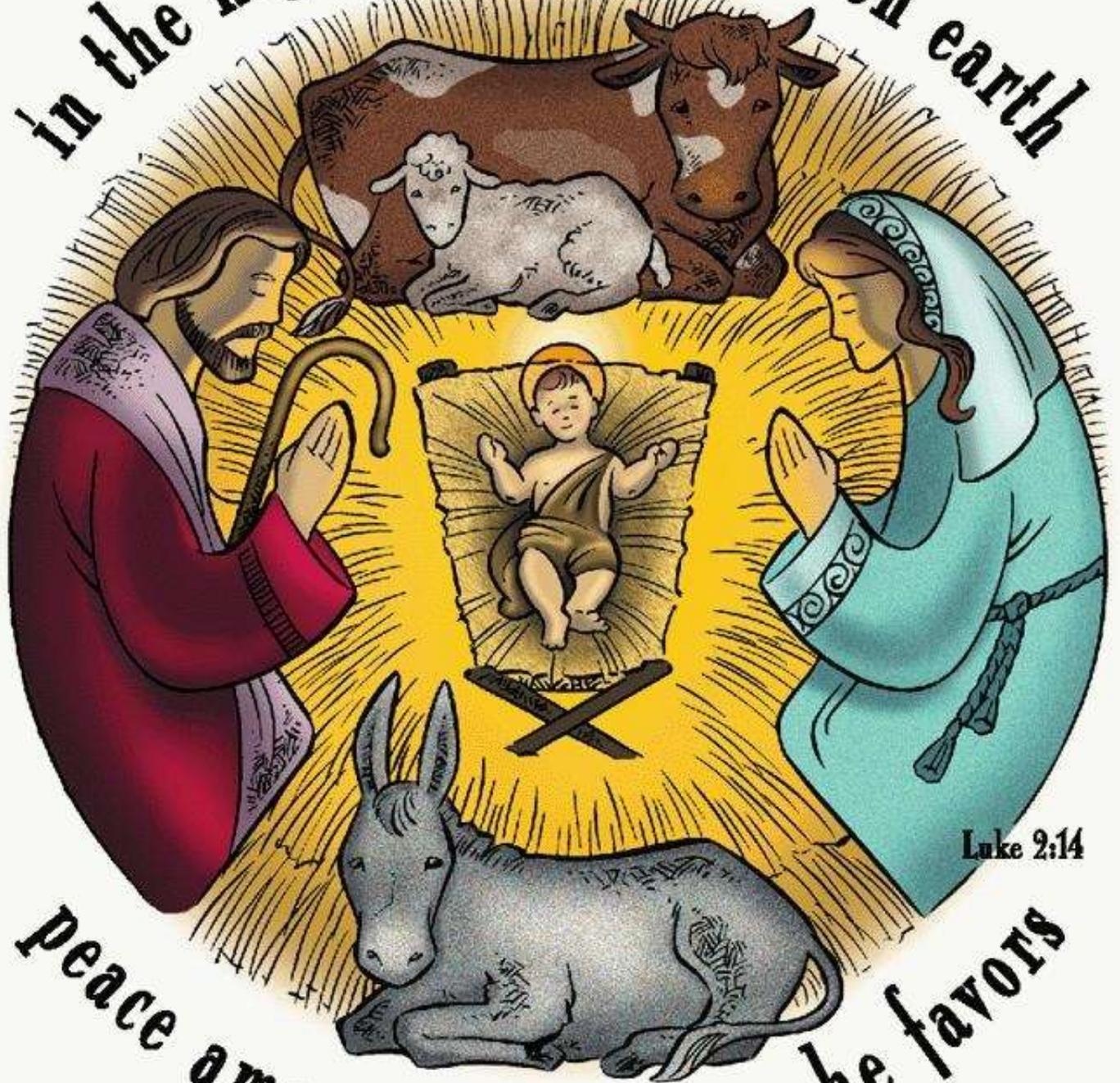


GLORY TO GOD

in the highest heaven, and on earth



Luke 2:14

peace among those whom he favors

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Nativity of our Lord

Christmas Eve

DECEMBER 24, 2013

4:10 pm—CAROLS AT THE PRELUDE

4:30 pm—DRAMA—HOLY EUCHARIST & CANDLELIGHTING

Carols at the Prelude

Angels, from the Realms of Glory (LSB 367)

- ¹ Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story; now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
- ² Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
- ⁵ All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

What Child Is This (LSB 370)

- ¹ What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!
- ³ So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

The First Noel

- 1 The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.
- 2 They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.
- 3 And by the light of that same star
Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.
- 4 This star drew near to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

O Little Town of Bethlehem (LSB 361)

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
- 3 **How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!**
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming; but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still, the dear Christ enters in.
- 4 O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Away in a Manger (LSB 365)

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay;
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask You to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Your tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with You there.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (LSB 393)

- 1 Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing;
Christ the child is Lord of all, Christ the child is Lord of all!
- 2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you, Christ the child was born for you!

It Came upon the Midnight Clear (LSB 366)

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heav’n’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.
- 4 **For lo! The days are hast’ning on, By prophets seen of old,**
When with the ever-circling years Shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

O Come, All Ye Faithful (LSB 379)

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him born the King of Angels:

REFRAIN *O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

2 Highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! REFRAIN

3 Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, In the highest: REFRAIN

4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing! REFRAIN



Greeting

PASTOR LARSON

THE INVOCATION AND RESPONSORIAL

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

C those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

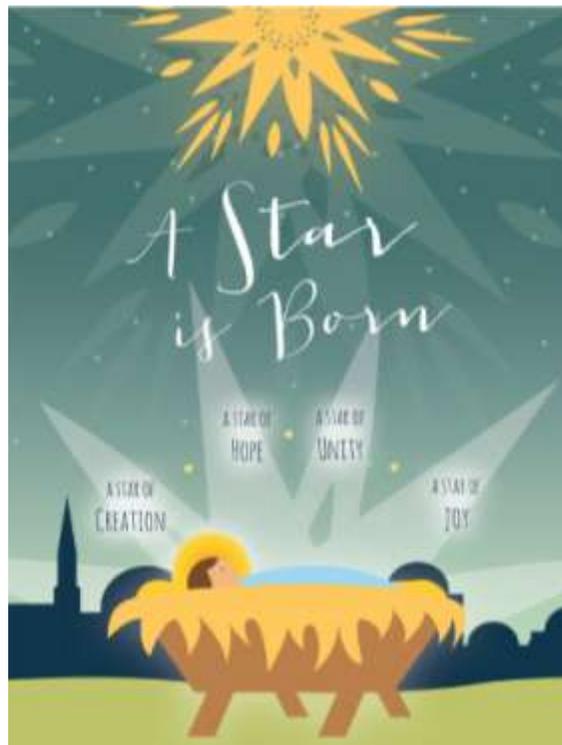
P When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman,

C born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law.

The Christmas Proclamation: St. Luke 2:1-20

A STAR OF CREATION A STAR OF HOPE A STAR OF UNITY A STAR OF JOY

BY MARK ZIMMERMANN AND DAVID MEAD
CREATIVE COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE PARISH



The Stage is Set

Lights! Camera! Action! Shine the spotlight, please. The show is about to start!

What show?

The Jesus show!

The Jesus show? Where is it playing?

In Bethlehem, of course.

In Bethlehem? I thought all the big shows were on Broadway or in Hollywood.

Well, not this one.

Who's in it? Any stars from the Hollywood Walk of Fame?

Well, there's a lady named Mary, a man named Joseph, shepherds, some sheep, and a donkey.

Sounds like a low-budget flick to me.

Well, you've just got to see it. You'll be amazed.

What's it about?

Well, I happen to have Act I right here. Let me read it to you: In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

Caesar Augustus, now that sounds like someone who should be a star. That name would be great on a marquee!

But he's not the star.

Then who is?

Wait and see....And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

Who are Mary and Joseph, if they are not the stars?

Supporting actors, of course.

Who are they supporting?

Wait and see....And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

There he is. The star of the show!

The firstborn son! The son of God!

Jesus Christ, our Lord.

He has a strange way of making an entrance, though.

He is not your typical leading man.

Or the glamorous starlet.

He is a little baby boy, born in a manger, covered in cloth.

But he is the Brightest Star we have all been waiting for!

In him we see our salvation.

One Small Child

DAVID MEECE

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE SINGERS

BOYS' HANDBELL RINGERS

One small Child in a land of a thousand,
One small dream of a Savior tonight,
One small hand reaching out to the starlight,
One small city of life...O!

One king bringing his gold and riches,
One King ruling an army of might,
One king kneeling with incense and candle light,
One King bringing us life...O!

One small light from the flame of a candle,
One small light from a city of might,
One small light from the stars in the endless night,
One small light from a face...O!

One small Child in a land of a thousand,
One small dream in a people of might,
One small hand reaching out to the starlight,
One small Savior of life...O!

Star of Creation

OK, OK, you've said that a Star is born in Bethlehem, and that Star is Jesus. So what does this Star mean to you and me?

Well, a lot of things, really. But to understand what the Bright Star, Jesus, means to you and me, we have to go all the way back to the beginning, when God created the earth.

The beginning? Oh, boy! This is going to be a long night.

Hold your horses! This is important. Let us set the scene: "Let there be light!" the Father said, and light shone everywhere.

It pushed the darkness back and showed that God was truly there.

The Light shone bright in Eden. Eve and Adam knew its warmth. They lived with God in paradise. They felt God's love shine forth.

And yet they chose to turn away from that eternal Light. God sent them out of Eden like two falling stars at night.

To remember what happened in the beginning, we place a ray for the star of creation on a Star centerpiece of Jesus, the Bright Star.

Look to the Skies

GRAHAM KENDRICK

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE SINGERS

BOYS' HANDBELL RINGERS

Look to the skies, there's a celebration,
Lift up your heads, join the angel song,
For our Creator becomes our Savior, as a baby born.
Angels amazed bow in adoration,
Glory to God in the highest heav'n;
Send the good news out to ev'ry nation, for our hope has come.

*Worship the King, come see His brightness,
Worship the King, His wonders tell.
Jesus, our King is born today,
We welcome You, Emmanuel.*

Wonderful Counselor Mighty God,
Father forever, the Prince of Peace;
There'll be no end to Your rule of justice
for it shall increase.
Light of Your face, come pierce our darkness,
Joy of Your heart come to chase our gloom.
Star of the morning, a new day dawning,
make our hearts Your home.

Quietly He came as a helpless baby,
One day in pow'r He will come again.
Swift through the skies He will burst with splendor, on the earth to reign.
Jesus, I bow at Your manger lowly,
Now in my life let Your will be done;
Live in my flesh by Your Spirit Holy,
till Your kingdom comes.

Star of Hope

So after Adam and Eve sinned and left the Garden of Eden, what happened?

Well, many years passed, but God did not forget his people. God told a man named Abraham to look up to heaven and made Abraham a promise that would change everything.

I can't wait to hear what God said.

The stars above surround the earth. Try counting if you can. God used those stars to make a promise to old Abraham.

Like stars, God's people all will shine and will be blessed again. We look to see the rising Star that God promised to send.

God was talking about Jesus, the Bright Star. But there were little stars along the way, too.

There was Jacob. There was Ruth. There was David. But the good news is, each one of us is a star, too.

We each have a role to play in the story of Jesus. We each are special to him.

We each have been given gifts which we can use to share with others the news that Jesus is born to save us.

Each one of you in this place is a star in God's universe. So be a star in the world today!

Tell the promises of Jesus, the Star of Hope.

So remember that *you* are a bright star for Jesus, the Brightest Star of all.

Jesus is our Star of Hope because he is the fulfillment of that promise to Abraham.

He is our Star of Hope because he takes away the power of sin in the world.

He is our Star of Hope because he is preparing a place for us in heaven.

To celebrate the hope we have in Jesus, the Bright Star, we place a ray for the Star of Hope on our Star centerpiece of Jesus, the Bright Star.

Love Has Come

KEN BIBLE, arranged

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE SINGERS

Love has come, a light in the darkness! Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies.

See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; Hear how their song of joy arises;

Love! Born unto you, a Savior!

Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come share in the wonder; Love is God now asleep in the hay.

See the glow in the eyes of His mother; What is the name her heart is saying?

Love! Love is the name she whispers;

Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come, He never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.

Love is Jesus within and among us; Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;

Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Star of Unity

It sounds like things are heading in the right direction in our story.

You would think so, but like in any good drama, there is a conflict.

A conflict? Oh, no!

Sadly, there was division in the land where the descendants of Abraham lived. People separated from each other and they separated from God.

Hear the sorry news: God's people were in need again. The kingdom split in two.

They were not following the Lord the way they ought to do.

But again God sent a little star to shine a light on the news that the Bright Star of Bethlehem was still on the way.

That man's name was Isaiah and he told the people what there was Light at the end of their dark tunnel and they would be united again.

God's kingdom will be one again. That's what Isaiah knew. "A child will soon be born," he wrote.

"God's Son will come to you. He'll be the ruler of us all, with peace and might in store. And all the world will honor him forever, evermore!"

Let us rejoice with Isaiah in song that the Bright Star of Bethlehem is on the horizon.

The First Noel

PUBLIC DOMAIN

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SMALL GROUP SINGERS

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star
Three Wise Men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

This star drew near to the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

But how will we know the Star of Unity has come?

Another prophet named Micah has given us that clue. “The tiny town of Bethlehem,” the prophet Micah writes, “From that small place will come a star who rules with God’s own light.”

Bethlehem will be the place where it all will come together.

Bethlehem will be the place where we all will join together to praise the Lord.

Bethlehem will be the place where God will bring peace to all the earth.

Let us place a ray for the Star of Unity on our star centerpiece of Jesus, the Bright Star.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

PUBLIC DOMAIN

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SMALL GROUP SINGERS

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav’n.
No ear may hear His coming; but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Star of Joy

We’re almost there. I can feel it.

You’re right! The Bright Star WAS born in Bethlehem, just like the prophets had said, to save us all from sin and death.

OK, so now what?

Now it’s time for the finale. The final outcome is that now there is joy.

Now there is joy! Joy because Jesus is here!

Joy because Jesus saves. Joy because Jesus forgives.

Joy because Jesus unites. Joy because Jesus brings peace.

And who better to express that joy than the shepherds and the angels.

Shepherds and angels? They weren't on the cast list.

Well, they are now. They are the proclaimers of Jesus, the Star of Joy.

I'm happy to hear their story.

Out on the hills of Bethlehem the shepherds shake in fright, for in the sky above appears an angel shining bright.

"Don't be afraid," the angel cheers. "In Bethlehem this morn God's brightest star, the Savior, Christ the Lord to you is born!"

And suddenly the light of heaven flashed across the sky, as choirs of angels sang a song, "Glory to God on high! And peace to all the earth!"

The shepherds sang it, too. They ran to Bethlehem with joy to see the angels' news.

And later there were the Magi, or Wise Men.

Another addition to the cast list, I suppose?

Yes. These Magi saw a bright star and came to worship the newborn king.

They followed the star until it came to rest over the place where the child was.

They worshiped him and gave him gifts of gold and incense and myrrh.

It's time for us to be joyful, too. We put a ray for the Star of Joy on our Star Centerpiece of Jesus, the Bright Star.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

PUBLIC DOMAIN

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SMALL GROUP SINGERS

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

But the story's not over yet. The story continues to this day.

And people still come to the little town of Bethlehem where faithful followers still come and see his place of birth.

But Jesus is born every day in the lives of you and me, too.

And the Bright Star shines brightly in the hearts of each one of us.

And his glory still shines forth in dark streets as silent stars go by.

Let his Light shine forever and ever! Amen.!

Joy to the World!

PUBLIC DOMAIN

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SMALL GROUP SINGERS

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.



The Prayer of the Church

- P Let us pray for the Church around the world and all people in their various needs. That the coming of the Word in the flesh might open the eyes of all who are blinded by this world's sin and folly, let us pray to the Lord,
- C O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!
- P That the grace and mercy God has offered in giving His Son might turn the hearts of many to true repentance, joy, and hope, let us pray to the Lord,
- C O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!
- P That the Church here and around the world might find a renewed sense of purpose as we join the Christmas angels and the hosts of heaven in praising the name of our gracious God, let us pray to the Lord,
- C O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!
- P That an awareness of how much God loves us and what He has been willing to do for us since the beginning of time would bring comfort to all who face this bright new day through tears of pain or sadness, (*especially ...*), let us pray to the Lord.
- C O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!
- P That God, outside of time and space, would so move the leaders of this world that they use every opportunity to reflect His care for the nations and areas they serve, let us pray to the Lord,
- C O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!
- P Into Your almighty and gracious hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.



The Sharing of the Peace

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

*You may now greet one another in the name of the Lord using
...Peace be with you*

THE OFFERING

Music for Meditation *Who Would Imagine a King?*

WARREN—HILL
Kaitlynn Andrus, soprano

The Offertory Prayer

P God of glory,

C receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. As Jesus was lifted up from the earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light, and from death to life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

The Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

The Sanctus *(Sung to the tune: Angels We Have Heard on High)*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. God by high-est hosts a - dored.
Sing ho - san - na, saints a - bove, with the an - gels sing God's love.

Heav'n and earth Your glo - ry sing: With them we our prais - es bring.
Bless-ed He, the com - ing One, God the Fa - ther's on - ly Son.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

The Words of Consecration

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Agnus Dei (*sung*)

(Setting I)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. Come, for the Supper is ready! When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Riley O’Byrne, guitar

We Three Kings

Brendan Schwartz, cello

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

Kiersten Johnson, piano

Carol of the Bells

Ashley Boeding, piano

Away in a Manger

Samantha Riebling, violin; Kiersten Johnson, piano

CONGREGATIONAL CAROLS

From Heaven Above Verses 1—6 (LSB 358)

Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming (LSB 359)

O Little Town of Bethlehem (LSB 361)

Away in a Manger (LSB 365)

The Communion Benediction

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace.
C Amen.

The Post Communion Prayer

- P We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing
power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us
through this gift, in faith toward you and fervent love toward one another; for the
sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen.

The Lighting of the Candles

Candles are lit from the center aisle; please pass the light to one another being careful to hold the candle upright as not to burn yourself with the wax. Let Christ's light be shared! The candles may remain lit through the end of the service.

Silent Night, Holy Night! (LSB 363)

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child.

Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,

Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!

Christ, the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

The Benediction

P May Almighty God, by whose mercy our Savior the Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of His blessing.

C Amen.

P May He whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

C Amen.

P May you, who rejoice in the first advent of our Redeemer, at His second advent receive, by His great mercy, unending life.

C Amen.

P And the blessing of the Almighty God, the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

C Amen.

The Carol *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* (LSB 380)

**1 Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”**

Joyful, all you nations, rise; Join the triumph of the skies;

With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

**2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin’s womb.**

Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!

Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

**3 Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with healing in His wings.**

Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die,

Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Congregational Concerns

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

The Organ Chorale

Serving in Worship

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD - CHRISTMAS EVE - 4:30 PM

OFFICIANT & CELEBRANT The Reverend John R. Larson, PASTOR
ELDER Kevin Mills
MINISTER OF MUSIC & ORGANIST Stephen R. Pruitt
TRUMPET Brent Paulson
ASSISTING ORGANIST Ann Kaneko
ACOLYTE Azaelia Maestes
GREETERS Members of the Congregation
USHERS Members of the Congregation
ALTAR GUILD Members of the Congregation

Ascension Lutheran Church—LCMS

1701 West Caley Avenue, Littleton CO 80120 303-794-4636

CHRISTMAS PLAY - MUSICAL

Readers

Clifton Arnold, Ashley Boeding, Lilly Brinkman, Rose Brinkman, Ariana Checots, Bryton Cornell, Tyler Dierking, Haley Elliott, Josh Federico, Pete Federico, Cami Goff, Branden Little Thunder, Carter Murray, Tyrus Pierce, Samantha Riebling, Hannah Schmitt, Brendan Schwartz

Small Group Vocalists

Ashley Boeding, Brooke Boeding, Lilly Brinkman, Ariana Checots, Lyla Dollar, Haley Elliott, Cami Goff, Kiersten Johnson, Samantha Riebling

Handbell Ringers

Jake Faulk, Josh Federico, Pete Federico, Branden Little Thunder, Carter Murray

Mary: Lyla Dollar; *Joseph:* Ben Dierking; *Wise Men:* Kealan Cornell, Jake Faulk, Pete Federico
Shepherds: Eli Faulk, Matthew Faulk, Josh Federico, Johnathan Finnessy, Cameron Mason, Noah Mason, Nolan Pierce, Luke Redden, Debra Rousch, Owen Stasny, Jonas Tunheim, Mason Williams
Angels: Kiana Adamson, Nevaeh Cooper, Lilly Erickson, Grace Redden, Ruth Redden, Hannah Schmitt, Holly Schmitt, Catie Shakely, Annaliese Tunheim, Ben Williams, Jacob Williams

Music Director: Stephen Pruitt; Program Director: Kathy Johnson

Sunday School Staff: Kathy Johnson, Director; Mike Reimnitz and Lori Rolling, Teachers, Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten; Angie Glavach, Mary Lou Regan, and Marilyn Saylor, Teachers, Grades 1 and 2; Aimee Dierking, Teacher, Grades 3 and 4; Collin Brinkman, Teacher, Grades 5 and 6; Amy and Larry Boeding and Karlene Rolling, Teachers, Grades 7 and 8; Susan Anderson and Ann Westra, Teachers, Youth; Doris Carlson, Secretary/Treasurer

The Sunday school kids, parents, and staff have worked many hours to prepare for this service. We thank them for their devotion and commitment to share the story of Jesus' birth with our congregation!

We'd like to extend a special *thank you* to the following individuals who helped prepare for the service: Lisa Riebling, who created the centerpiece for the program. Charlene Dierking and Christy Williams who washed and ironed costumes. Christina Cook and Katie Johnson for helping coordinate the many details of the program. Larry Boeding for directing sound for the program. Jim Riebling for directing the lights for the program. Thank you to all of you!