

TRINITY EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GLENDORA
CHRISTMAS DAY
December 25, 2024

The Song of the Angels

As We Gather

One of the great pleasures of the Advent and Christmas season is the singing of hymns and carols associated with the nativity of our Lord. Many of the texts of these well-loved songs were written specifically for services in the Christmas season; others were not. “Silent Night, Holy Night” (*LSB* 363) was written to be first sung at a Christmas Eve service in Austria in 1818, and “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (*LSB* 361) was initially included as part of a children’s Christmas program at Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia in 1868. But another well-loved hymn associated with Christmas was not originally a Christmas song. “Joy to the World” (*LSB* 387) was written as a paraphrase of the second half of Psalm 98 by the English hymnwriter Isaac Watts in 1719. When the text was printed as part of a collection of Psalms in English verse, he gave the song the heading “The Messiah’s Coming and Kingdom.” Our celebration of the coming to earth of Jesus as our Messiah and Lord gives us a great “resounding joy” that lasts all through our years as we await the fullness of His kingdom yet to come!

PREPARATION

376 Once in Royal David’s City

- 1 Once in royal David’s city, Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby, In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly, Lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3 For He is our childhood’s pattern, Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.
- 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle, Is our Lord in heav’n above;
And He leads His children on, To the place where He is gone.
- 5 Not in that poor, lowly stable, With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God’s right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences *Psalm 34:1–3, 5, 7, 22*

- P I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
C **My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.**
P Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!

- C **Those who look to Him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.**
P The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them.
C **The LORD redeems the life of His servants; none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned.**

Confession and Absolution *Galatians 4:4–5*

- P Let us go to our loving Father, confident of His forgiveness for Jesus’ sake.
P Heavenly Father,
C **we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have failed to walk always in the paths of righteousness in our thinking, speaking, and acting; we have not loved You completely or our neighbors as ourselves. We have failed to live as sisters and brothers of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus, whose birth we celebrate this day. In Your great mercy, forgive and renew us that we may be servants of our eternal king to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
P God has heard our plea and has responded to our need. “God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law.”
P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

392 God Loves Me Dearly

- 1 God loves me dearly, Grants me salvation, God loves me dearly, Loves even me. *Refrain*
ref Therefore I’ll say again: God loves me dearly, God loves me dearly, Loves even me.
- 2 I was in slav’ry, Sin, death, and darkness; God’s love was working, To make me free.
Refrain
- 3 He sent forth Jesus, My dear Redeemer, He sent forth Jesus, And set me free. *Refrain*
- 4 Jesus, my Savior, Himself did offer; Jesus, my Savior, Paid all I owed. *Refrain*
- 5 Now I will praise You, O Love Eternal; Now I will praise You, All my life long. *Refrain*

Introit *Psalm 2:1–2, 4–6; antiphon: Liturgical Text*

- P When all was still, and it was midnight,
C **Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.**
P Why do the nations rage
C **and the peoples plot in vain?**
P The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together,
C **against the LORD and against His anointed.**
P He who sits in the heavens laughs;
C **the Lord holds them in derision.**
P Then He will speak to them in His wrath,
C **and terrify them in His fury, saying,**
P “As for Me, I have set My King

- C **on Zion, My holy hill.”**
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
P When all was still, and it was midnight,
C **Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.**

WORD

- P The heavenly sounds of the angelic host praising God have echoed since the beginning of time. Job relates that when the Lord laid the foundations of the earth, “the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God [angels] shouted for joy” (38:7). The prophet Isaiah writes of a time when he heard heavenly beings sounding out the praises of God (Isaiah 6:24), and the psalmist calls on “everything that has breath” to “praise the Lord” (Psalm 150:6). The traditional French carol “Angels We Have Heard on High” includes us among those who have been blessed to hear the song of the angels. Using the Latin phrase “Gloria in excelsis Deo,” which means “glory to God in the highest,” we add our voices to the glorious sounds of praise as together we sing the next hymn.

368 Angels We Have Heard on High

- 1 Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain*
ref Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.
2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be, Which inspire your heav’nly song? *Refrain*
3 Come to Bethlehem and see, Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

Salutation

- P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

- P Let us pray.
Gracious God, on this blessed day, we celebrate our Lord’s birth as the fulfillment of Your promise of redemption from sin. With the company of song-filled angels in heaven and jubilant people on earth, we welcome Jesus as the Savior of the world and Lord of our hearts, who now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 9:2–7*

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle

tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem: "Immanuel" *Sung by Bob Mann*

Epistle *Titus 2:11–14*

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice *sts. 1–2*

- 1 Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav’n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth, Poor in a manger lies; Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies. Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!
2 Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to Thee. Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child; Through Thy grace and merit, Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto Thee! Draw me unto Thee!

Holy Gospel *Luke 2:1–20*

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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. ⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the

highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!” Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!” *Refrain*

ref 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 the incarnate Deity! Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*

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 man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. *Refrain*

Sermon

Creed *Nicene Creed*

C **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray.

O Dayspring from on high, babe of Bethlehem, we follow in the steps of those who knelt in humble adoration at Your manger so many years ago. Like shepherds of old, we thrill to hear the message that the herald angel brings: “Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” We, too, go to see this thing that has happened. The glory shines around us as well. Our hearts grow warm before the meaning of the miracle. God is love, indeed, and there is hope for all who humbly open up their lives to You. You have come to do for us what we are so helpless to do for ourselves. Empower us to fulfill in faithfulness the things that You have given us to do, so that like ancient shepherds, our daily walk may become for us a road of glory and a mission of peace.

As You did with Mary and Joseph, so make Your home in our human lives and hearts. As Joseph and Mary went up from Galilee to Judea, lead us wherever we may help to carry out Your plan for humankind. As Mary brought into this world “a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel,” so enable us, too, to bring Your peace to desperate people.

Grant that all who see our worship of the newborn babe wonder at the way we keep this day. And O Bethlehem’s royal prince, let there be some who, because of us, ponder these things deep within their hearts.

We praise You, the sun of righteousness, who has risen with healing in Your wings; we praise You now and evermore.

C **Amen.**

Offering

390 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice *sts. 1–3*

1 Let us all with gladsome voice, Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given.

2 To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in heav’n’s fair homes, We may reign in gladness.

3 We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore, Here on earth and yonder.

SACRAMENT

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.**

Proper Preface

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; by whose

birth as Savior and divine king, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. By Your coming among us, You have turned our sorrow into joy that has no end. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your holy name, evermore praising You and saying:

367 Angels from the Realms of Glory *sts. 1, ref, 4–5*

1 Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story, Now proclaim Messiah's birth. *Refrain*

ref Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.

4 Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear. *Refrain*

D 5 All creation, join in praising, God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising, To the eternal Three in One. *Refrain*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, sovereign Lord, for in Your great mercy You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus, into our flesh to be our Savior. We thank You that He has been born as King and yet as one who comes to serve and bring us true redemption. We bless You for calling us to repentance and inviting us to receive the gifts that He alone gives. Grant that with humble thankfulness we may approach His Table of grace to receive His body and blood and, through them, the priceless gifts of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. We ask this in His saving name.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

C **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 Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei LSB 550 Lamb of God

1 Your only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod, And to become the Lamb of God. *Refrain*

*ref O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.*

2 Your Gift of love they crucified, They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud, And sacrificed the Lamb of God. *Refrain*

3 I was so lost, I should have died, But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God. *Refrain*

Distribution Hymns

621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending, Comes our homage to demand.

2 King of kings yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful, His own self for heav'nly food.

3 Rank on rank the host of heaven, Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light, descending, From the realms of endless day,
Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish, As the darkness clears away.

4 At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, As with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

393 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

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!

Post-Communion Canticle LSB 388 Go Tell It on the Mountain *sts. ref-1, 3*

*ref Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born!*

1 While shepherds kept their watching, O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens, There shone a holy light. *Refrain*

3 Down in a lonely manger, The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation, That blessèd Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

- P Let us pray.
We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have refreshed us through this Sacrament and have given us eternal hope in Jesus, Your Son and our king. Joined with singing saints and the whole host of heaven, we praise Your Son at His birth and celebrate with joy the blessings He brings this day and every day; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Benediction (Aaronic)

- P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
- C **Amen.**

387 Joy to the World

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, 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.
- 2 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.
- 4 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.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1.

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