

The Youth of Bethany
Lutheran Church Presents



THE NIGHT OF
Jesus' Birth

A CLASSIC CHRISTMAS
STORY

PRELUDE
RINGING OF THE BELL
WELCOME

ADVENT PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
Master of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.
We who have so much to do and seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.
To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"
Amen.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

"The Night of Jesus' Birth" -- A Classic Christmas Story

Part One – Mary & Joseph

One day, a woman named Mary was at home when the Angel Gabriel visited her. Gabriel told her, "Mary, do not be afraid. God loves you, and you will give birth to a baby boy named Jesus. He will be the son of God."

Mary was supposed to be married to a man named Joseph, and she told Joseph that she would give birth to God's son. Joseph was not sure how this could be, but an angel appeared to him in a dream and told him not to be afraid. So, Joseph and Mary were married.

Soon, an order came from Caesar Augustus that all people had to return to their hometown to be taxed. Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem, where Joseph had been born. When they arrived in Bethlehem, Joseph and Mary were very tired. But there was no room in any inn. One innkeeper told Joseph that he and Mary could stay in the stable behind his inn. It was there that Mary gave birth to a baby boy. She named him Jesus. Mary wrapped him in cloth and laid him in a manger.

Hymn: "Away in a Manger" (ELW 277) Youth will sing first verse; congregation will join starting with the second verse. *Please see next page.*

Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -



Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: North American, 19th cent.

Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray, 1841–1905

Part Two – The Angels Appear

That night, shepherds were in the field watching over their sheep. An angel appeared in the sky and said, “Fear not! I bring you good news of great joy!” The Angel told them that Christ had been born and they could find the baby wrapped in cloth and laying in a manger.

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” – Sung by angels.

THE PEACE OF THE LORD IS SHARED

Part Three – The Shepherds

The shepherds rushed to the stable and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus. When they had seen him, they spread the word of what they had been told and what they saw. All who heard it were amazed.

Hymn: “Joy to the World” (ELW 267) Youth will sing first verse; congregation will join starting with the second verse. *Please see next page.*

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

OFFERING

Part Four – The Star & The Wisemen

After Jesus was born, a star appeared in Bethlehem. Wisemen from the East saw this and started following the star, which would lead them to the newborn king.

“Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” – Sung by Youth

THE JOY OF THE LORD IS SHARED (ornaments)

The star led them to Bethlehem, and they found Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus. They bowed down to worship him. They gave Jesus many gifts, including gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

All of this took place to fulfill what the prophets had heard; The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means “GOD WITH US”.

Hymn: "O Come All Ye Faithful" (ELW 283) – Sung by the congregation

O, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

The congregation stands.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Each petition ends with, "Lord, in your mercy." Those worshipping respond with the hymn on the next page, "O Lord Hear My Prayer" (ELW 751).

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
 OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

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**

BLESSING

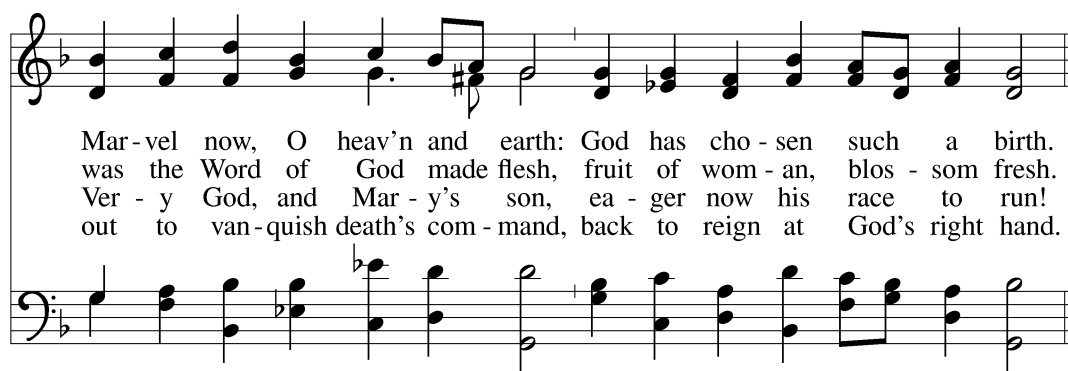
The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.

HYMN: "Savior of the Nations, Come" (ELW 263) Please see next page.

Savior of the Nations, Come



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

*All are invited to stay for breakfast in the Great Hall
served by the children, youth, and parents of our Christmas program.*



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