

M: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
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.**

M: Let us bless the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**
M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: **Amen.**

HYMN Go Tell It on the Mountain (CW #57)

Children
Refrain:
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.

Congregation
**2. The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.
Refrain.**

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

Away in a Manger
A Christmas Service for School-age Children

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Written by Bart Day, Scott Murray, and Janet Muth
Edited by Pamela Nielsen

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AWAY IN A MANGER
A CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The theme for this year's service is taken from the beloved children's carol "Away in a Manger." The carol, often incorrectly attributed to Martin Luther, is one of the most frequently sung carols of Christmastide. So what is found in *that* manger? Is it a cute little baby, or is there more? Who is that baby? God's Son, our Savior, is He who lies in that manger and brings to us gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation from our heavenly Father. Join us now as we, through song and verse, look for and discover the gifts that are found in the manger. These Christmas gifts are eternal and these gifts are for you!

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.*

CHILDREN'S SERVICE

+ In Nomine Jesu +

PROCESSIONAL Joy to the World (TLH #87)

The congregation shall stand for the hymn.

**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.**

**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.
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.**

INVOCATION & COLLECT

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**
M: The Lord be with you.
C: **And with your spirit.**

M: Let us pray: Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of Your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with Your light; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

SERMON: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-24 – Cherish the Message of the Manger!

READING - Luke 2:1–5 (Joslyn Saliger)

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. 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.

HYMN O Little Town of Bethlehem (TLH #647)

Children

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.

Congregation

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

READING - Luke 2:6–7 (Tessa Cerny)

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.

HYMN - Silent Night (TLH #646)

**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.**

MEDITATION - The Word and Sacraments in the Manger - John 1:14 (Rayne Saliger)

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

CHILDREN – Away in a Manger - Stanza 3

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

GOSPEL - Matthew 1:20–25 (Rylan & Caleb Bohmbach)

... an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. “She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name Jesus.

OFFERING

BENEDICTUS HYMN (Sung During the Offering) - Sing Praise to the God of Israel (ELH #46)

**1. Sing praise to the God of Israel!
Sing praise for His visitation!
Redeeming His people from their sin,
Accomplishing their salvation,
Upraising a mighty horn within
The house of His servant David!**

**2. God spoke by the prophets long ago,
His promise on oath recalling—
To Abraham made in former years:
Of vanquishing foes appalling,
That those He delivered from their fears
Might gladly and truly serve Him.**

**3. You, child, will go on before the Lord
As prophet, His way preparing;
To speak on behalf of God Most High,
His counsel of truth declaring:
Rich mercy and grace for all whereby
Iniquity is forgiven.**

**4. O bright, rising Sun, now shine on us
In need of illumination;
Come scatter the shades of sin and death
And shatter their domination.
Be guiding our footsteps on the path
Of peace, in Your presence dawning!**

COLLECT, LORD’S PRAYER & BENEDICTION

M: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we neither fall into sin, nor run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

**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.***

MEDITATION - The Baby's NOT in the Manger! (Landen Saliger)

If Jesus was only a baby who grew to be only a man, we would be lost. But He is God, and He accomplished that for which He came! He suffered, died, rose, and ascended for our salvation. "God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." 1 John 4:9-10.

CHILDREN - Away in a Manger, Stanza 2

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

READING - Isaiah 35:5-10 (Alex Kirchner)

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; Then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; The burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

HYMN - God Loves Me Dearly (ELH #175)

Children

1. God loves me dearly,
Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.

Refrain:

Therefore I'll say again:
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.

Congregation

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.*

READING - Luke 2:8-14 (Emma Cerny)

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.

And 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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

Angels (Rayne Saliger, Tessa Cerny, Caleb Bohmbach, Erick Bohmbach, Andrea Bohmbach):

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

HYMN - Angels We Have Heard on High (ELH #116)

1. Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

**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.

READING - Luke 2:15-20 (Erik Van Kampen)

When 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."

And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN - Gentle Mary Laid Her Child (LSB #374)

Children

1. Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined,
To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place,
Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found His favor.

Congregation

2. **Angels sang about His birth,
Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth
Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.**

3. **Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined
But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth;
Hail the King of glory!**

MEDITATION - The Baby in the Manger (Harmen Van Kampen)

In the manger we find true God from eternity, humbled as a tiny baby! "He had to be made like His brothers in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people." Hebrews 2:17

CHILDREN - Away in a Manger - Stanza 1 (Emma, Olivia & Joslyn)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

READING - Isaiah 11:1-5 (Olivia Kirchner)

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what His eyes see, or decide disputes by what His ears hear, but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of His waist, and faithfulness the belt of His loins.

HYMN - What Child Is This (ELH #145)

Congregation

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!**

2. **Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.**

**Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
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!**

READING - Isaiah 2:1-5 (Erik Van Kampen)

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us His ways and that we may walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD.

HYMN Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (CW #61)

Children

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!"

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.***

Congregation

***Refrain:* Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"**