

SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS



CHILDREN'S SERVICE

+ *In Nomine Jesu* +

379 O Come, All Ye Faithful

sts. 1,

ref, 2-4, ref-s

- 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:**

Venid, adoremos,
venid, adoremos,
venid, adoremos
a Cristo el Señor.

- 2 Highest, most holy,
Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing!**

Kommt, lasset uns anbeten,
kommt, lasset uns anbeten,
kommt, lasset uns anbeten,
den König, den Herrn.

- 3 Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest!**

En lui viens reconnaître,
En lui viens reconnaître,
En lui viens reconnaître
ton Dieu, ton Sauveur.

**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!**

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

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786; (ref-s): tr. Juan Bautista Cabrera,
1837–1916
Text: Public domain

Advent Candle Lighting

Responsive Litany

During Advent we wait for the coming Savior
who is our Prince of Peace

**The Lord gives strength to his people,
and blesses them with peace.**

In the midst of conflict, we look to the
One who brings harmony.

**The Lord gives strength to his people,
and blesses them with peace.**

In the midst of confusion, we look to
the One who brings clarity.

**The Lord gives strength to his people,
and blesses them with peace.**

In the midst of division, we look to the
One who brings unity.

**The Lord gives strength to his people,
and blesses them with peace.**

In the midst of separation, we look to
the One who restores the broken.

**The Lord gives strength to his people,
and blesses them with peace.**

Candle Lighting

Today we light three candles. The **first candle** reminds us of our hope in knowing Jesus as our Wonderful Counselor. The **second candle** reminds us of our joy in proclaiming Christ as our Mighty God. We light the **third candle** to remind us that Jesus is our Prince of Peace. In the world filled with conflict, tension and discord, we look for the peace that comes through Christ alone.

Stand

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Exhortation

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Confession of Sins

LSB 167

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left**

undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Absolution

LSB 151

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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Prayer

P Let us pray.
Almighty God, who by the mouth of Your holy prophets did proclaim the coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the Hope of Israel and Savior of the Nations, help us we pray to see Him rightly as our own Lord and Savior, and by true faith rejoice in Your salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

Reading*Luke 1:26–33*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke and St. Matthew, of the Birth of Christ the Savior of the Nations.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sit

Reading*Luke 1:34–45*

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

364 Away in a Manger, First Stanza sang by Children

- 1 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.
- 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.**
- 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.**

Text (sts. 1–2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.
Text: Public domain

Reading

Luke 2:1–7

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.

Children - Off They Go

Off they go
On their way.
Mary and Joseph
Leave today.
When they get
To Bethlehem
Will there be
A place for them?

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.

[P] This is the Gospel of the Lord.

[C] Praise to You, O Christ.

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

sts. 1, 7

1 Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (st. 1): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobier, 1973

Text (st. 1): Public domain

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Little Baby Jesus

Little baby Jesus
Lying on the hay.
Sent from heaven for us.
Born on Christmas Day.

See the baby sleeping?
Born for you and me
To save all people from their sin
He died to set us free.

Reading

Luke 2:8–14

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!”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Reading

Luke 2:15–21

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.

²¹And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Meditation: Songs of Angels and Shepherds

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

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.; French
Text: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**
 maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died and was buried.
 He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the
dead.

He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the
Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the
living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Sit

Meditation: Savior of the Nations, Come!

332 Savior of the Nations, Come *sts. 2, 6*

**2 Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.**


**6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.**

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (st. 2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (st. 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006
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Offering

Stand

Offertory *159*

** ♪ What shall I render to the Lord
for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of
thanksgiving and will call on the
name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and
will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now
in the presence of all His people,**

**in the courts of the Lord's house, in
the midst of you, O Jerusalem. ♪**

Sit

Children - Walk to the Manger

We go to see Jesus;
God sent Him, you know,
God's very own Son,
He loves us all so!
We play we are shepherds
And walk with a stick.
We walk to the manger
Quicker than quick.

588 Jesus Loves Me

sts. 1, ref, 2, 1s, ref-s

1s Cristo me ama, bien lo sé;
su Palabra me hace ver
que los niños son de aquel
quien es nuestro amigo fiel. Estribillo

ref-s Sí, Cristo me ama;
sí, Cristo me ama;
sí, Cristo me ama;
la Biblia dice así.

1 Jesus loves me! This I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong;
They are weak, but He is strong.
Refrain

ref Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

2 Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven's gates to open wide.
He has washed away my sin,
Lets His little child come in. Refrain

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.; (sts. 1s, ref-s): tr. unknown
Text: Public domain

Stand

Reading

Matthew 2:1–12

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people
Israel.””

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have

found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.¹¹ And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Collect

P 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 fall into no sin, neither 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.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

P 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.

Sit

In A Little Stable

In a little stable
Far across the sea
Was a little Baby
Just like you and me.

Not a bed or cradle,
Not a pillow deep,
But a lowly manger
Was His place to sleep.

Shepherds stood around Him,
Angels watched with care,
For this Babe was JESUS,
Lying, smiling there.

Oh, I love this Jesus,
Who was little then,
For I know He loves me,
Little though I am.

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.
- 3 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.**

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Text: Public domain

Children - Sing and Clap

Sing and clap and shout for joy
As Christmas comes again.
'Cause now you know our Savior came
For the whole World!
Merry Christmas!

Stand

Benedicamus

267

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

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
✠ give you peace today and
forevermore.

C Amen.

Sit

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

sts. 3–4, 8

3 Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.

**4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.**

**5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.**

**△ Lob sei Gott dem Vater g'tan,
Lob sei Gott sein'm ein'gen Sohn,
Lob sei Gott dem Heil'gen Geist
Immer und in Ewigkeit.**

**△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.**

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (st. 3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001
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