

The Nativity of our Lord - Christmas Day - B

December 25, 2020

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Hebrews 1:1-6 (7-12)

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." *Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end."*

John 1:1-14 (15-18)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And 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. *(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.' ") For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.*

Candle Light Service and Christmas Day Service



**St. Andrew Lutheran
West Fargo
December 24 & 25, 2020**

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

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December 24 & 25, 2020 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Day-B

Tonight is the beginning of the celebration we have been preparing for, **THE SAVIOR'S BIRTH**. We hear the message of God re-establishing His peaceful rule over our lives once again. For now in faith, we see God's grace displayed in this babe who went to the cross for us. In repentance, we no longer have to fear God's terrible judgment, but we can sing with the angels, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth." May the Lord grant each of us the ability to sing this song of peace each week we worship, and every day of our lives, until He comes again. We know Jesus resolves the discord of sin with the harmony of His grace by the forgiveness of sin so that we may enter into the New Paradise.

SPECIAL NOTES FOR WORSHIP

YOUR WORSHIP FOLDER contains all four Christmas Services. 3:30pm, 5:30pm, and 8pm are the same. The 10am Christmas Day Service is a special communion service. If you will not be with us for the other services, use this folder for your own devotion time. The upcoming announcements are found in the back section.

PLEASE CONSIDER THE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE INCOMPLETE! Its full conclusion is when we celebrate the comings of our Lord at 10am on Christmas Day through Word and Sacrament. The Good News of our Lord's birth certainly continues beyond this evening!

VISITORS and GUESTS OF THE CONGREGATION: We welcome you to this joyous celebration of God's love as seen in the birth of Jesus Christ. If you desire to commune Christmas Day, follow the directions on the communion registration in the pew rack in front of you or in your worship folder. If you are a guest and/or have some spiritual concerns, please speak with our pastor before communing.

Nativity of Our Lord-Christmas Day-B

December 25, 2020

Introit

For 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.
Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done | marvelous things!*
His right hand and his holy arm have worked salva- | tion for him.
The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;*
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of | Israel.*

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation | of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;*

break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

For 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.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Gradual

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.

Sing to the Lord a | new song,*

for he has done | marvelous things!

Verse

Alleluia. 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. Alleluia.

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December 25, 2020-10am

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 24 THE PROMISE OF GENESIS 3 FULFILLED

3:30pm Christmas Candlelight service

5:30pm Christmas Candlelight service

8:00pm Christmas Candlelight service

December 25 10am Christmas Day Festival Communion Service

PARADISE GAINED

Rev. 21:3-5

December 27

10am Service Only

January 3

8am and 10am Service (Time Change)

January 6 6:15pm-Confirmation and Choir Schedules resume

8pm-Epiphany Service and Christmas Tree Bough Burning

January 10

Sunday Worship at 8am & 10:45am

Sunday School and Bibles Classes resume as well.

THE CANDLES-You will receive them during the offering. PLEASE DO NOT TIP A LIGHTED CANDLE! Only tip your unlighted as the light is passed to you.

YOUR OFFERING-In thanks for the Lord's blessings and mercy, you may bring your offering up to the front to lay it in the manger. You will be ushered up the center aisle alternating from side to side, one pew at a time. Place your offering in the manger and pick up your candle as you return to your seat. A child may enjoy putting the offering in the cradle. Please return to your seat down the side aisles.

_____THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE_____

THE PRELUDE:

**THE BELL, THE PEACE, EXPLANATION OF OFFERING,
LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

LSB #379 (alt:LW #41)

1. Oh, come all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels:

Refrain: Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God In the highest!

Refrain:

STAND

THE INTRODUCTION & INVOCATION

P: God in His infinite wisdom and mercy calls on us to call upon Him in Worship. For He alone is worthy of worship. Jesus said, “Where two or three come together in My NAME, there I am with them.” So, when we as the people of God speak His precious and Holy Name we are reminded that He is present with us as He has promised in our Baptisms. In the Name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

THE CONFESSION

P: To confess our sin is to speak the truth about our lives. We are not worthy to come into God's presence because of our own sin and the sin of our first parents, who first disobeyed God's Word by eating the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Yet we boldly approach His throne of grace in confidence because we will find grace and mercy through our Lord, Jesus Christ. In the Psalms David wrote, "I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord, and you forgave the guilt of my sin'." (*Pastor kneels*) We confess our sin....

C: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that 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 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.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name, He gives the power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C: Amen!

THE COLLECT

P: Let us pray....O, God, because You once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the mystery of the Light here on earth may come to the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen!

SIT

A SONG OF ANTICIPATION

"I am So Glad"

Tune: LW #56

1. I am so glad when Christmas comes, the night of Jesus' birth,
When Bethlehem's star shone as the sun, and angels sang with mirth.
2. The little child of Bethlehem, the King of heav'nly grace,
Came down from his exalted throne, to save our fallen race.

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN

"Joy to the World"

LSB #387 (alt #53)

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.

THE POSTLUDE

VISITORS, if you do not have a church home, you are welcome to consider us. Please let us know by telling a member or one the pastors as you leave, so that we may help you and give the information you need.

Merry CHRISTmas!

We thank the Lord for all those who blessed our worship with music, including our musicians:

Soloists: Art Weidner and Matthew Jahnke

Organist: Susan Jahnke

Piano: Jodi Pierce

Flute: Joslyn Pierce

Trumpet: Joshua Harvala

Trombone: Jordan Pierce

Strings: McKenna Norton, Hannah Norton, and Matthew Jahnke

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3. 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 your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

STAND

THE CANDLELIGHT PRAYERS

P: O Almighty God, You have made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of Your Son, Jesus Christ, the true light of the World. Grant us to know now the true meaning and mystery of His coming and birth, so we may also have the fullness of His eternal joys in heaven, where He now lives and reigns with You, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: AMEN! GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST!

P: Remember us in Your kingdom and help us to pray....

**ALL: 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!**

P: "You are the light of the world....Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."
[Matthew 5:14,16]

THE BLESSING

P: The grace of the new born King, Jesus + Christ, who came for our salvation, and the love of God the Heavenly Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: AMEN! CHRIST IS BORN FOR US, ALLELUIA!

Candles are extinguished and lights brightened. Please place your candles in the box in the narthex as you are ushered out.

3. He's now returned to heav'n above, God's Son he is alway;
He ne'er forgets his little ones, but hears them when they pray.
4. I too would sing my Savior's praise, my joy, my crown, my Lord;
For he has made me his own child, by Water and the Word.
5. I love this precious Christmas Eve, and my dear Savior mild,
And I shall not forget the truth: He loves me as his child.
6. I am so glad when Christmas comes; let anthems fill the air!
He opens wide for every child, His paradise so fair.

THE BEGINNING: PARADISE GIVEN-PARADISE LOST

THE HARMONY OF GOD'S CREATION IS GOOD

...IT IS VERY GOOD!

Genesis 1:1, 24-31 (ESV)

A SONG OF RESPONSE

"Praise to the Lord"

Tune: LSB #790 (alt: LW#444)

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear Now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD AND MAN DEFINED BY TWO TREES IN THE GARDEN

Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17

A SONG OF RESPONSE

"Praise to the Lord"

LSB #790

2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen All that is needful has been
Sent by His gracious ordaining?

THE GOOD RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD AND MAN ENDS IN DISCORD, BUT THE PROMISE OF THE END OF CONFLICT IS GIVEN

Genesis 3:8-15 & 24

A SONG OF RESPONSE

"Let All Together Praise Our God"

LSB #389 (alt LW #44)

1. Let all together praise our God Before his glorious throne:
Today He opens heav'n again
To give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
4. He undertakes a great exchange, Puts on our human frame,
And in return gives us His realm,
His glory, and His name, His glory, and His name,
6. He is the key and He the door To blessed paradise;
The angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise, To God our praises rise.

THE PROMISE COMES THROUGH ONE OFFSPRING TO ALL NATIONS

Genesis 22:13-18a

A SONG OF RESPONSE

"Savior of the Nations Come"

LSB #332:1,3,7 (alt LW #13)

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.

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.

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

PROPHECIES OF GOD WITH MAN & THE END OF CONFLICT

A PROPHECY OF THE END OF CONFLICT

Isaiah 9:2-7

A SONG OF RESPONSE

"What Child Is This?"

LSB #370 (alt LW #61)

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. Shepherds in the field abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the infant light.

REFRAIN

3. Sages, leave your contemplations, Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations, You have seen his natal star.

REFRAIN

4. All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To th'eternal Three in One.

REFRAIN

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT AND SONG

THE CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY

The pastor lights his candle from the altar candle, which symbolizes CHRIST THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

- P: 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. Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

[Isaiah 9:2 and 60:1]

Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world; whoever follows me shall not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. [John 8:12]

The pastor gives light to the ushers at the front of the altar. They, in turn give light to the first worshipers in each row, who will pass it on to the others in that row. DO NOT TILT A LIGHTED CANDLE!!!

THE CANDLELIGHT SONG

"Silent Night"

LSB #363 (alt LW #68)

1. 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.
2. 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!

OUR OFFERINGS AND SONGS OF RESPONSE

Our gifts and songs acknowledge with joy the birth of Him who is our Savior. Through them, we signify the giving of ourselves fully and our trust. Through these gifts we and others will continue to hear the joy of Jesus. You will be ushered up the center aisle alternating from side to side, one pew at a time. Place your offering in the manger and receive your candle as you return to your seat. A child may enjoy putting the offering in the cradle. Please return to your seat down the side aisles. We listen & sing as the offerings are brought up:

3:30pm-RESPONSE "Birthday of A King" Solo

RESPONSE #1 "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice"
LW #47 (alt LSB #386)

1. Now sing we, now rejoice With heart and soul and voice.
Life's most precious treasure Here poor in manger lies;
He brings purer pleasure Than sunlight from the skies.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
2. God's Son, come from above, Your grace and saving love
To my spirit bringing, O pure and holy Child,
Fill my heart with singing For grace so great and mild.
Draw me, Lord to you! Draw me, Lord to you!
3. We see God's love divine For us in Jesus shine.
Guilt of sin had taught us But death and misery;
Then our Ransom bought us God's bright eternity.
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!
4. Where is that place so fair? Oh, nowhere else but there
Where the angel voices With God's redeemed unite,
Awed that he rejoices To share his joy and light.
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

RESPONSE #2 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"
LW #50 (alt 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:

REFRAIN: Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king.

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!

**A PROPHECY OF THE ONE WHO WILL COME
TO RESTORE THE HARMONY OF PARADISE Isaiah 11:1-9**

A SONG OF RESPONSE "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"
LSB #359 (alt LW #67or#51)

1. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming As prophets long have sung,
It came, a flow'ret bright,
Amid the cold of winter, When half-spent was the night.
2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore to us a Savior When half-spent was the night.
3. This Flow'r whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness everywhere.
True Man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us And lightens every load.

THE PLACE FROM WHICH HE WILL COME Micah 5:2

A SONG OF RESPONSE "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
LSB #361 (alt: LW #60)

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 blessing 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!

Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
 And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

GOD'S CREATION RESPONDS IN SONG

THE SONG OF MARY

Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

A SONG OF RESPONSE "My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord"

LSB #934

1. My soul now magnifies the Lord; My spirit leaps for joy in Him.
 He keeps me in His kind regard, And I am blest for time to come.
2. For He alone who shows such might Has done amazing things to me.
 His mercy flows; His name like light Remains in time perpetually.
3. His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scatters those of proud intent
 And casts them down from high estate,
 Then gives the low His nourishment.
4. He feeds the hungry as His own; The wealthy leave with empty hands.
 He gives His help to Israel; His gracious promise always stands.

THE PROPHECIES AND SONGS FULFILLED

Luke 2:1-7

A SONG OF RESPONSE

"Away in a Manger"

Traditional-LSB #364 (alt 365)

1. Away in a manger no crib for a 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 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 until morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
 Close by me forever and love me, I pray.

THE SONG OF GOD'S HEAVENLY CREATURES

Luke 2:8-14

A SONG OF RESPONSE

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

LSB #380 (alt LW #49)

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 the-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 God-head see! Hail the-incarnate deity!
 Pleas'd as Man with man to dwell, Jesus our Immanuel!
 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 man no more may die
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

THE SONG OF THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2:15-20

A SONG OF RESPONSE

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Tune: LW #55/LSB #368

1. Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
 Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn king.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.