

### 379 Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379

- 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:

*Refrain: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!*

- 2 Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes; Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God In the highest: *Refrain*
- 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! *Refrain*

### Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

### Confession & Absolution

**P** Beloved in the Lord. Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**C** who made heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**P** 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 by thought, word, and deed; therefore we flee for refuge to Your boundless mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** O most merciful God, since You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy on us and for His sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true

**obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**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 power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

**P** Grant this, Lord, to us all.

**C** Amen.

### **Salutation & Prayer of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

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

**C** Amen.

## **Lessons & Carols**

### **First Lesson**

Genesis 3:8-15

*(The first promise of a Savior)*

### **Carol**

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

*LSB 352 vs. 1, 2, 5, 6*

- 1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly kept His word  
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner’s help and friend.
- 2 What the fathers most desired, What the prophets’ heart inspired,  
What they longed for many\_a year, Stands fulfilled in glory here.
- 5 Bruise for me the serpent’s head That, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to You in faith, Safely kept through life and death.
- 6 Then when You will come again As the glorious king to reign,  
I with joy will see Your face, Freely ransomed by Your grace.

### **Second Lesson**

Genesis 22:15-18

*(God’s promises to Abraham)*

**Carol**                    “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

*LSB 352 vs. 3-4*

- 3 Abram’s promised great reward, Zion’s helper, Jacob’s Lord—  
Him of twofold race behold—Truly came, as long foretold.
- 4 As Your coming was in peace, Quiet, full of gentleness,  
Let the same mind dwell in me Which is Yours eternally.

**Third Lesson**

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*(Christ’s birth and kingdom are foretold)*

**Carol**                    “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

*LSB 380*

- 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: 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*

**Fourth Lesson**

Isaiah 11:1-9

*(The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.)*

**Carol**                    “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

*LSB 359 vs. 1-2*

- 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.

**Fifth Lesson**

Micah 5:2-4

*(The place of Jesus’ birth is foretold.)*

**Carol**                    “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*LSB 361 vs. 1, 2, 4*

- 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.
- 2 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!
- 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;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

**Sixth Lesson**

Isaiah 62:10-12

*(Prepare the way. Your Savior comes.)*

**Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**

*LSB 341 vs. 1-3*

- 1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.  
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.  
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.
- 2 A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.  
The end of all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.  
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.
- 3 How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!  
O peaceful hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!  
The cloudless sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.  
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.

**Seventh Lesson**

Luke 1:26-35

*(Mary is favored by God.)*

**Carol**                    “My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord”

*LSB 934 vs. 1-2*

- 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.

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, number 100010413.

## **Eighth Lesson**

Matthew 1:18-25

*(The birth of Jesus.)*

### **Carol**

“Away in a Manger”

*LSB 364*

- 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.

## **Ninth Lesson**

Luke 2:8-16

*(The shepherds visit the manger.)*

### **Solo**

“Mary’s Little Boy Child”

Jessica Krueger

## **Tenth Lesson**

Matthew 2:1-12

*(The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus.)*

### **Carol**

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

*LSB 397 vs. 1-3*

- 1 As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before Thee, whom heav’n and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin’s alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav’nly King.

## **Eleventh Lesson**

John 1:1-14

*(John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.)*

**Carol**            “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

*LBW 55*

- 1    Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart and soul and voice;  
     Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
     Ox and ass before him bow, And he is in the manger now.  
     Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
- 2    Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart and soul and voice;  
     Now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this!  
     He has opened heaven’s door, And we are blest forevermore.  
     Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
- 3    Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart and soul and voice;  
     Now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!  
     Calls you one and calls you all To gain his everlasting hall.  
     Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

**Twelfth Lesson**    Galatians 4:4-7 (*At the right time, God sent His Son into the world to redeem us.*)

**Message**

**Carol**            “Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”

*LSB 375*

- 1    Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the Lord with gladness praising;  
     Loudly sing His love amazing, Worthy folk of Christendom.
- 2    Christ, from heav’n to us descending And in love our race befriending;  
     In our need His help extending, Saved us from the wily foe.
- 3    Jacob’s star in all its splendor Beams with comfort sweet and tender,  
     Forcing Satan to surrender, Breaking all the pow’rs of hell.
- 4    From the bondage that oppressed us, From sin’s fetters that possessed us,  
     From the grief that sore distressed us, We, the captives, now are free.
- 5    Oh, the joy beyond expressing When by faith we grasp this blessing,  
     And to You we come confessing That Your love has set us free.
- 6    Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us, From Your lowly manger cheer us,  
     Gently lead us and be near us Till we join Your choir above.

## Prayers

- P** Christ is born and the whole world has seen the salvation of our God.
- C** **Come, let us worship and adore Him. Come, let us kneel in prayer before Him.**
- P** That the dark night of sin and death may be fully overcome by the light and life of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **We pray You, Lord, hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**
- P** That the nations may keep silent before the miracle of God in human flesh and blood and that all people might embrace Him with faith and trust.
- C** **We pray You, Lord, hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**
- P** That the good news of Jesus' birth may result in new lives of faithfulness and witness among all God's people.
- C** **We pray You, Lord, hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**
- P** That any who struggle with sorrow, pain, or suffering may find healing and hope in Christ, especially those whom we name in our hearts before the Lord.
- C** **We pray You, Lord, hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**
- P** That those who celebrate the miracle of Jesus' birth may celebrate every week with God's people gathered around the Word and Table of the Lord.
- C** **We pray You, Lord, hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**
- P** That everywhere and every place the world may hear the good news of great joy which is born in the Savior who is Christ the Lord.
- C** **We pray You, Lord, hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**
- P** That we may bring forth only the best to the Lord; our voices lifted in song, our lives lifted in witness and service, and our tithes and offerings lifted in gratitude and thanksgiving.
- C** **We pray You, Lord, hear our prayer and grant our supplication.**
- P** That we may confess our sins to the Lord and embrace with faith the forgiveness which is ours in Christ.
- C** **We pray You, Lord, forgive our sins for Jesus' sake and help us amend our sinful lives by the gift of Your Holy Spirit.**
- P** For shepherds who worshiped, angels who sang, and for all those who have heard the call of life and hope in Christ and responded by faith let us offer our thanks and praise.
- C** **Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth. We give You thanks for the love which has taken flesh in Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us 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.**

## Benediction

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

**C** Amen.

## 387 Joy to the World

*LSB 387*

- 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.

(Portions of this service have been reprinted from Lutheran Worship, Copyright 1982 Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted by permission.)