



January 8, 2023

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THE PRELUDE

Organist: Jean Loberger

PRAISE SONG

As with Gladness Men of Old

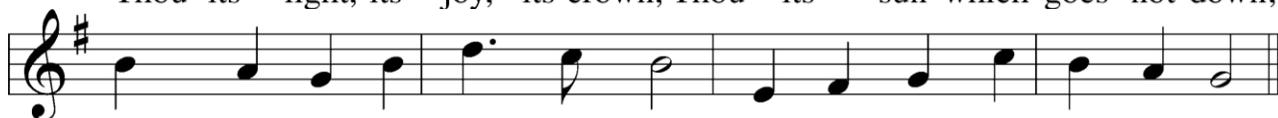
LSB#397



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho-ly Je-sus, ev-'ry day Keep us in the nar-row way;
5 In the heav'n-ly coun-try bright Need they no cre-at-ed light;



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;
There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;
So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,
And when earth-ly things are past, Bring our ran-somed souls at last
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.
So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo-ry hide.
There for-ev-er may we sing Al-le-lu-ias to our King.

*THE INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

*RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 72:1-11

P ¹Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the royal son!

C ²May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice!

P ³Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness!

C ⁴May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor!

- P** ⁵May they fear you while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
- C** ⁶**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth!**
- P** ⁷In his days may the righteous flourish, and peace abound, till the moon be no more!
- C** ⁸**May he have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!**
- P** ⁹May desert tribes bow down before him and his enemies lick the dust!
- C** ¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!** ¹¹**May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!**

***CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

- 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.**
- 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
- C** **O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 60:1–6*

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. ⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared.⁸ And 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.

***NICENE CREED**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SERMON HYMN

We Three Kings of Orient Are

**1 We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, Moor and mountain
Following yonder star.**

*O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light*

**2 Born a king on Bethlehem’s plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again,**

**King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign. Refrain**

**3 Frankincense to offer have I;
Incense owns a Deity nigh;**

**Prayer and praising, voices raising,
Worshipping God on high. Refrain**

**4 Myrrh is mine; its better perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. Refrain**

SERMON

We Three Kings of Orient Are

**5. Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and Sacrifice
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Sounds thru the earth and skies.**

*O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to Thy perfect light*

OFFERING

*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORDS 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.

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION HYMNS

God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen

1 God rest ye merry, gentlemen,

Let nothing you dismay,

Remember Christ our Saviour

Was born on Christmas Day;

To save poor souls from Satan's power

Which had long time gone astray.

Refrain:

*And God send you happy new year, happy
new year*

And God send you happy new year.

2 From God that is our Father

The blessed Angels came;

Unto some certain Shepherds

with tidings of the same;

That there was born in Bethlehem,

The Son of God by name *Refrain.*

3. Now to the Lord sing praises,

All you within this place,

Like we true loving Brethren,

Each other to embrace,

For the merry time of Christmas,

Is drawing on a pace. *Refrain.*

The First Noel

**1 The first Noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!**

**2 They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!**

**3 And by the light of that same star
Three Wise men came from country far
To seek for a King was their intent
And to follow the star wherever it went
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!**

**4 This star drew nigh to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both stop and stay
Right o'er the place where Jesus lay
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!**

**5 Then entered in those Wise men three
Fell reverently upon their knee
And offered there in His presence
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the kind of Israel!**

**6 Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made heaven and earth of
naught
And with his blood mankind has bought
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!**

CLOSING SONG

God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen

**4 God bless the ruler of this House
And send Him long to reign,
And many a merry Christmas
May live to see again.**

**Among your friends and kindred,
That live both far and near. Refrain.**

*And God send you happy new year, happy new year
And God send you happy new year.*

***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 His favor and give you His peace.

C Amen.

