



CIRCUMCISION AND NAME OF JESUS/
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
January 1, 2023

O JESUS CHRIST, THY MANGER IS
TEXT BY PAUL GERHARDT 1607-1676
TUNE (IN PARADISIUM) BY KENNETH KOSCHE B. 1947 COPYRIGHT 1996
A CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE BY JANET NICOL

Like other German hymns, Gerhardt's are lengthy and intended for use throughout a service, a group of stanzas at a time. This hymn we are studying tonight has 15 stanzas in its original form. Only 6 of them made it into the LSB. More than 130 of Gerhardt's hymns were published in various editions of hymns. John Wesley and Catherine Winkworth are among some who made famous English translations of Gerhardt's texts. I was unable to find who exactly translated this one. Gerhardt ranks as one of the most gifted and popular hymn writers of the Lutheran Church. The outward circumstances of Gerhardt's life were for the most part gloomy. His earlier years were spent amid the horrors of the Thirty Years' War. He did not obtain a settled position in life till he was 44 years of age. He was unable to marry till four years later; and his wife, after a long illness, died during the time that he was without an office in Berlin; of the five children of the marriage, only one passed the period of childhood. The sunniest period of his life was during the early years of his Berlin ministry (i.e. 1657-1663) when he enjoyed universal love and esteem; while his latter years at Lübben as a widower with one surviving child were passed among a rough and unsympathizing people.

Kosche's musical influence in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has been prominent for decades. He wrote the tune "In Paradisum" which is set to Paul Gerhardt's Christmas hymn "O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is" in 1996. (#372 in *Lutheran Service Book*) Kenneth T. Kosche is Professor of Music Emeritus of Concordia University Wisconsin (Mequon, WI) where he directed the Concordia Chorale (chapel choir) and Kammerchor (touring choir), served as director of the parish music program, and taught conducting, choral literature, and composing/arranging to undergrads and graduate students in the Masters in Church Music degree program. A native Chicagoan, Kosche earned his B.S. in Music Education and M. S. degrees at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) and D.M.A. in Choral Music from the University of Washington (Seattle). A teacher for forty years, he taught first in public schools in Illinois before moving to Seattle for doctoral study. After a year of teaching at the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse, he accepted his position at CUW in 1978. His colleagues at CUW honored him with the Faculty Laureate in 1999. He retired in 2009. Our own organist, Mrs. Elena Pfeiffer, is a former student of Kosche.

Enjoy the marriage of the old text with the new tune tonight as we contemplate the birth of our savior.

595 O Blessed Spring



1 O bless-ed spring, where Word and sign Em - brace us
2 Through sum-mer heat of youth-ful years, Un - cer - tain
3 When au-tumn cools and youth is cold, When limbs their
4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, We breathe our
5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, Be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: Here Christ en - joins each one to
faith, re - bel - lious tears, Sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
heav - y har - vest hold, Then through us, warm, the Christ will
last, re - turn to dust; Still held in Christ, our souls take
this blest mys - ter - y: That Word and wa - ter thus re -



be A branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
rain, The boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
move With gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
wing And trust the prom - ise of the spring.
vive And join us to Your Tree of Life.

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Holy Baptism

Stand

When candidates are unable to speak for themselves, the sponsors answer the questions on their behalf.

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

C Amen.

P Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." And the apostle Peter has written, "Baptism now saves you."

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

The pastor addresses each candidate:

- P** How are you named?
- R** Liam Conrad Foos

The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of each candidate while saying:

- P** Liam Conrad Foos, receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your ✠ forehead and upon your ✠ heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

- P** Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold Liam Conrad according to Your boundless mercy and bless him with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in him, which has been inherited from Adam and which he himself has committed since, would be drowned and die.

Grant that he be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all believers in Your promise, he would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

- C** **Amen.**

- P** From ancient times the Church has observed the custom of appointing sponsors for baptismal candidates and catechumens. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church sponsors are to confess the faith expressed in the Apostles' Creed and taught in the Small Catechism. They are, whenever possible, to witness the Baptism of those they sponsor. They are to pray for them, support them in their ongoing

instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward the faithful reception of the Lord's Supper. They are at all times to be examples to them of the holy life of faith in Christ and love for the neighbor.

The pastor addresses the sponsors:

P Is it your intention to serve Liam Conrad as sponsors in the Christian faith?

R *Yes, with the help of God.*

P God enable you both to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.

C **Amen.**

P Hear the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

They brought young children to [Jesus] that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

The pastor places his hands on the head(s) of the candidate(s), and the congregation joins in praying:

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.**

P The Lord preserve your coming in and your going out from this time forth and even $\cdot\ddagger\cdot$ forevermore.

C **Amen.**

The pastor addresses the candidate(s) and asks the following questions:

P Liam Conrad, do you renounce the devil?

R *Yes, I renounce him.*

P Do you renounce all his works?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you renounce all his ways?

R *Yes, I renounce them.*

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Do you believe 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?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Do you 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?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Liam Conrad, do you desire to be baptized?

R *Yes, I do.*

The pastor pours water three times on the head of each candidate while saying:

P Liam Conrad Foos, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

The pastor places his hands on the head of the newly baptized while saying:

P The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

C **Amen.**

The newly baptized may be welcomed with the following:

A In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you a member of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We receive you in Jesus' name as our brother in Christ, that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

C **Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord.**

Stand

P Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise You that You graciously preserve and enlarge Your family and have granted Liam Conrad the new birth in Holy Baptism and made him a member of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and an heir of Your heavenly kingdom. We humbly implore You that, as he has now become Your child, You would keep him in his baptismal grace, that according to Your good pleasure he may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Your holy name and finally, with all Your saints, obtain the promised inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

All return to their places.

Service of Prayer and Preaching

Old Testament Canticle

LSB 261



C The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



With joy will you draw wa - ter from the



wells of sal - va - tion. And you will say in that



day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call up - on His name,



make known His deeds a - mong the peo - ples, pro -



claim that His name is ex - alt - ed.”

Refrain



The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.



Sing prais - es to the Lord, for He has done



glo - rious - ly; let this be made known in all the



earth. Shout, and sing for joy, O in -



hab - i - tants of Zi - on, for great in your midst is the



Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Refrain



The Lord God is my strength and my song, and



He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will
 be for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain
 The Lord God is my strength and my song, and
 He has be - come my sal - va - tion.

Sit

Psalm

(Spoken Responsively)

Psalm 8

¹O LORD, our Lord,

how majestic is your name in all the earth!
 You have set your glory above the heavens.

**²Out of the mouth of babes and infants,
 you have established strength because of your foes,
 to still the enemy and the avenger.**

³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
 the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

**⁴what is man that you are mindful of him,
 and the son of man that you care for him?**

⁵Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.

⁶**You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under his feet,**

⁷all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,

⁸**the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

⁹O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Stand

Catechism

Ten Commandments

- ☐ You shall have no other gods.
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or
maidservant,
his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

Lord's 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.**

Sit

896 Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year



1 Now greet the swift - ly chang - ing year With
 2 Re - mem - ber now the Son of God And
 3 This Je - sus came to end sin's war; This
 4 His love a - bun - dant far ex - ceeds The



joy and pen - i - tence sin - cere. Re - joyce! Re-joyce! With
 how He shed His in - fant blood. Re - joyce! Re-joyce! With
 Name of names for us He bore. Re - joyce! Re-joyce! With
 vol - ume of a whole year's needs. Re - joyce! Re-joyce! With



thanks em - brace An - oth - er year of grace.
 thanks em - brace An - oth - er year of grace.
 thanks em - brace An - oth - er year of grace.
 thanks em - brace An - oth - er year of grace.

5 With Him as Lord to lead our way
 In want and in prosperity,
 What need we fear in earth or space
 In this new year of grace!

6 "All glory be to God on high,
 And peace on earth!" the angels cry.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
 Another year of grace.

△ 7 God, Father, Son, and Spirit, hear!
 To all our pleas incline Your ear;
 Upon our lives rich blessing trace
 In this new year of grace.

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Presentation of the Youth:

372 O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is *(Sung by children's choir)*

st. 1

1 O Je - sus Christ, Thy man - ger is My
par - a - dise at which my soul re - clin - eth.
For there, O Lord, Doth lie the Word Made
flesh for us; here - in Thy grace forth shin - eth.

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Eva Pfeiffer:

Luke 2:4-7

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. 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.

John Franzen:

John 1:14

¹⁴And 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.

Becca Boyd:

Romans 8:3

³For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

Tori Schlueter:

Every year during Christmas we have a vision of the manger as an animal feeding trough being used as a crib for a poor baby, who happens to be our savior in the flesh. It makes us

think of Jesus being humbled and beneath the dignity of a proper king. Yet in this text, the author, Paul Gerhardt, portrays the manger as a paradise; a resting place for our souls. Why? Because in that feeding trough, the Word made flesh, God incarnate, born as an infant just like the rest of us, shows the mercy and grace God has given by becoming a man. Rev. Travis Berg in the Winter of 2022 Christian Culture, a Magazine for Lutherans wrote, "The incarnation is not the conversion of the divine into flesh. No, the incarnation is the assumption of humanity into God. God is now the Man Jesus Christ." This is the crux of what we celebrate in the Christmas season. The rest we receive from the body which laid in the manger then is the same body from which we receive rest in Holy Communion today.

372 O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is (*Sung by Children and adult choirs*)

st. 2

2 He whom the sea And wind o - bey Doth
 come to serve the sin - ner in great meek - ness.
 Thou, God's own Son, With us art one, Dost
 join us and our chil - dren in our weak - ness.

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Livian Pfeiffer:

Luke 2:8-14

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 great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of 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,

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

Connor Burns:

Matthew 20:28

...even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

John Franzen:

Galatians 4:4-5

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Hannah Pfeiffer:

Luke 8:24

And they went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm.

Clara Andrews:

It is humbling, indeed to think that God would lower himself to become one of us to serve us, such great sinners. In that human form, he assumed weakness like us, needing a mother to feed him and a father to protect him. Yet angels sang in praise when he was born and he is able to make the wind and sea obey him. He is able to cure diseases and heal the wounded. He is able to rise from the dead. Now through our redemption, we are adopted as sons and daughters of God and in our weakness, we are brothers and sisters of Him who saves.

372 O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is *(Sung by all)*

st. 3

3 Thy light and grace Our guilt ef - face, Thy
 heav'n - ly rich - es all our loss re - triev - ing.
 Im - man - u - el, Thy birth doth quell The
 pow'r of hell and Sa - tan's bold de - ceiv - ing.

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John Franzen:*Matthew 1:21-23*

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).

Allie Boyd:*Luke 2:15-20*

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.

Connor Boyd:*Genesis 3:6-13*

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

Lincoln Thrush:

It is unfathomable that a tiny child and his humble birth can break the power of Satan. Yet that is exactly what God did for us, even in the midst of man's fall in the garden, God came to be near and to call. Then in His time, He came again as a man and called us to repentance and salvation. A great theologian of the late 7th century named John of Damascus wrote, "Man was ensnared by the assault of the archfiend and broke his Creator's command, and was stripped of grace and put off his confidence with God, and covered himself with the harshness of a toilsome life (for this is the meaning of the fig leaves)." Satan was and is the

bold deceiver and Adam and Eve swallowed the lie, as we continue to do today. John of Damascus continued, "For by the good pleasure of our God and Father, the only-begotten Son and Word of God and God...bent the heavens and descended to earth...What greater thing is there than that God should become man?"

372 O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is (*Sung by adult choir*)

st. 4

4 Thou Chris - tian heart, Who - e'er thou art, Be
of good cheer and let no sor - row move thee!
For God's own Child, In mer - cy mild, Joins
thee to Him; how great - ly God must love thee!

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Connor Burns:

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Livian Pfeiffer:

John 17:22-23

(Jesus said) The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

John Franzen:

Psalm 92:4-5

For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.
How great are your works, O Lord!
Your thoughts are very deep!

Anna Lynch:

God's thoughts are indeed very deep. We cannot fully comprehend them. But Paul Gerhardt in this hymn says that we need to be of good cheer and not let the sorrows of this world overcome us. For the truth is: God greatly loves us so that, by His Spirit and through His Son- this Jesus we sing to as a babe this night- we will not die but live forever! This is God's work and it makes us glad.

372 O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is *(Sung by all)*

st. 5

5 Re - mem - ber thou What glo - ry now The
Lord pre - pared thee for all earth - ly sad - ness.
The an - gel host Can nev - er boast Of
great - er glo - ry, great - er bliss or glad - ness.

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Eva Pfeiffer:

Psalm 98:1-2

Oh sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.
The Lord has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

McKain Thrush:

Luke 2:25-32

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,
"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,

according to your word;
 for my eyes have seen your salvation
 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
 a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
 and for glory to your people Israel.”

Taylor Andrews:

These words of the 5th stanza seem to echo parts of the Nunc Dimittis from Luke 2. How appropriate that we sing the words from the Gospel of Luke after receiving the body and blood of our Lord and Savior in the Divine Service. We can join with Simeon in singing about our knowledge of the peace we have now that God revealed His righteousness and salvation which He alone prepared for us. Jesus is God’s right hand and now we have this peace in spite of the “earthly sadness” of which Gerhardt speaks. Even angels cannot boast of this honor we have been given.

372 O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is *(Sung by all)*

st. 6

6 The world may hold Her wealth and gold; But
 thou, my heart, keep Christ as thy true trea - sure.
 To Him hold fast Un - til at last A
 crown be thine and hon - or in full mea - sure.

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Becca Boyd:

Matthew 6:19-20

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

Hannah Pfeiffer:

James 1:2

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

McKain Thrush:

Revelation 2:10

Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Sarah Lynch:

We finish this part of the greatest story ever told by remembering that we don't hold our treasures here in this life in the same way that the world does. We hold to the truth and treasure of Jesus. And when we remain faithful to Him under our troubles and tribulations, which have been decreed by God himself, we will receive the promise of eternal life, crowned with glory just like our King and Savior. Let it be so!

Stand

388 Go Tell It on the Mountain

(Kids sing alone on first refrain and stz 1, congregation joins after that)

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch - ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum - ble Christ was born;

Refrain



Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Text (sts. 1-3): John W. Work II, 1873-1925, alt.
Text (ref) and tune: African American spiritual
Text and tune: Public domain

Offering Eva Pfeiffer plays "The First Noel"

Stand

Prayer

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Collect of the Day

L Lord God, You made Your beloved Son, our Savior, subject to the Law and caused Him to shed His blood on our behalf. Grant us the true circumcision of the Spirit that our hearts may be made pure from all sins; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Collect for the Word

L Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold

fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Morning Prayer

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

New Testament Canticle

LSB 266



C Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -



Dy - ing, Christ dies to sin, once for all. Liv - ing, He
lives to God. Count your - selves as dead to
sin and a - live to God in Christ Je - sus, our Lord.
Refrain
Christ has been raised from the dead! Al - le -
lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Blessing

- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**
- L** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
- C** **Amen.**

624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born



1 The in - fant Priest was ho - ly born For us un -
 2 This great High Priest in hu - man flesh Was i - con
 3 The ho - ly Lamb un - daunt - ed came To God's own
 4 But death would not the vic - tor be Of Him who



ho - ly and for - lorn; From flesh - ly tem - ple
 of God's righ - teous - ness. His hal - lowed touch brought
 al - tar lit with flame; While weep - ing an - gels
 hung up - on the tree. He leads us to the



forth came He, A - noint - ed from e - ter - ni - ty.
 sanc - ti - ty; His hand re - moved im - pu - ri - ty.
 hid their eyes, This Priest be - came a sac - ri - fice.
 Ho - ly Place With - in the veil, be - fore God's face.

- 5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,
 As at the rail on bended knee
 Our hungry mouths from Him receive
 The bread of immortality.
- 6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,
 A priestly food and priestly meat;
 On sin-parched lips the chalice pours
 His quenching blood that life restores.

- 7 With cherubim and seraphim
 Our voices join the endless hymn,
 And "Holy, holy, holy" sing
 To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and
 King.

Text: Chad L. Bird, 1970; Tune: Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature, 1778, London;
 adapt. Edward Miller, 1731-1807; Text: © 1997, 2003 Chad L. Bird. Used by permission: LSB
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Acknowledgments

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