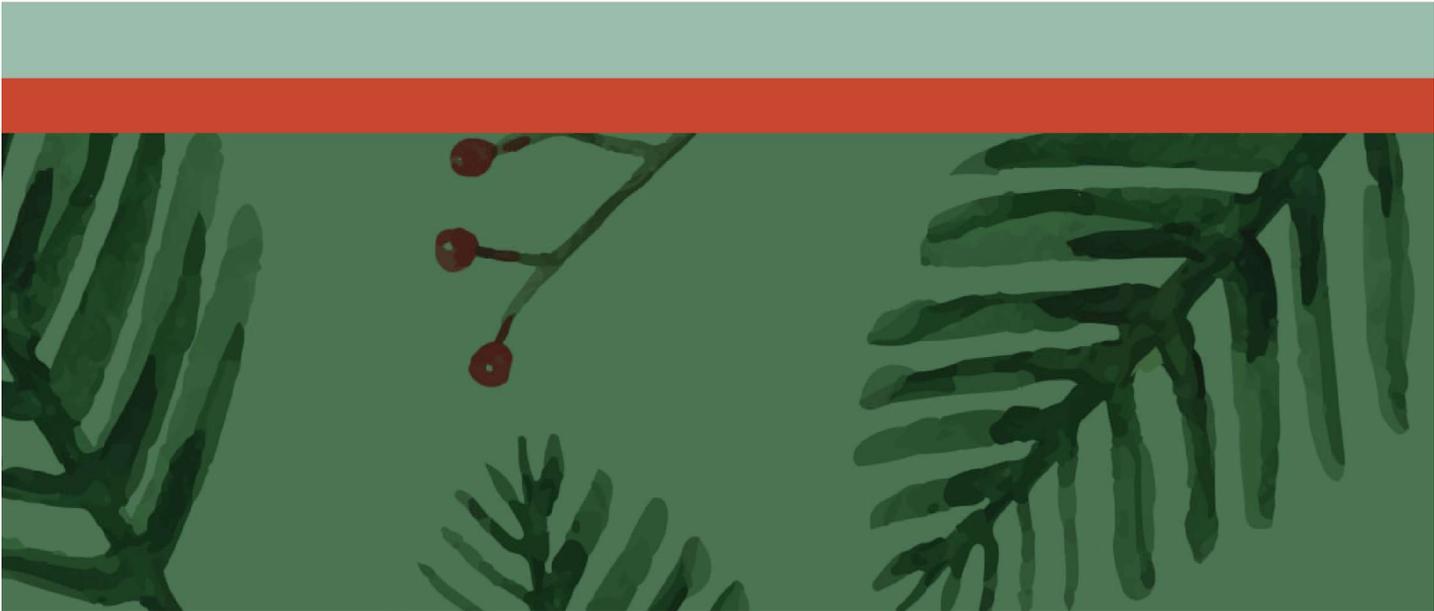




Merry
Christmas

The central text 'Merry Christmas' is rendered in a mix of fonts. 'Merry' is in a dark blue, elegant serif font, while 'Christmas' is in a larger, bold, dark blue serif font. The letter 'C' in 'Christmas' is a large, stylized red script. The text is surrounded by delicate green leafy sprigs and small white dots, giving it a festive, hand-drawn appearance.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

CW 354



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come_ ye to Beth - le - hem!
born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes!
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee_ be all glo - ry giv'n!

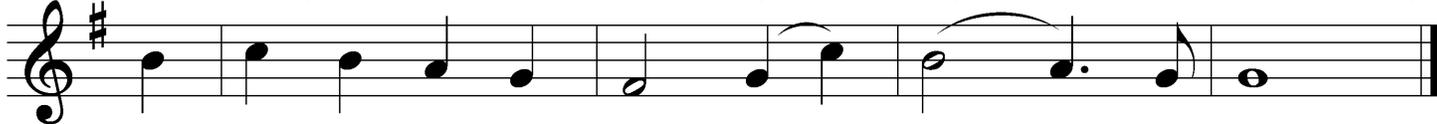


Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:
On - ly - be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther:
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786 Tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Invocation and Responses

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

Amen.

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 his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music;

make music to the Lord—shout for joy before the Lord, the King.

Confession and Absolution

Dear Christian friends, let us come into God's presence in humility, confessing our sins and confident in our Savior:

Heavenly Father, we were born in the disgrace of our parents, Adam and Eve. Though we followed in their shame, we have tried to hide from you and blame others. Our sin brought ugly death to this world and eternal condemnation to our future. Today, we lay all our guilt before you. Lord, have mercy on us!

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only begotten Son, born of a woman, born under law for us. We have seen his glory from the Father. He bore the shame of our sin on the cross and brought the assurance of life to us by his resurrection from the dead. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord:

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

CW 363 sts. 1, 3



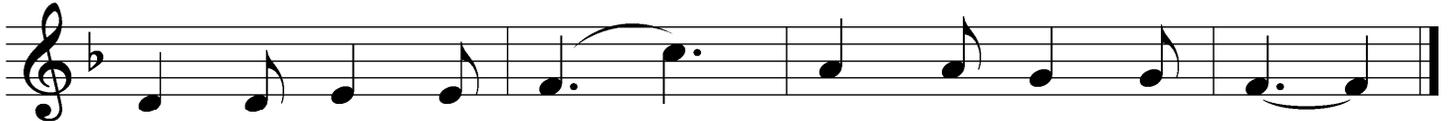
1 Now sing we, now re - joice, now raise to heav'n our voice;
3 Now through his Son doth shine the Fa-ther's grace di - vine.



he from whom joy stream - eth poor in a man - ger lies;
Death was reign - ing o'er us through sin and van - i - ty



not so bright - ly beam - eth the sun in yon - der skies.
till he o - pened for us a bright e - ter - ni - ty.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!

Prayer

Let us pray: Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all nations.

⁷How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation,

who say to Zion,

“Your God reigns!”

⁸Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy.

When the LORD returns to Zion,
they will see it with their own eyes.

⁹Burst into songs of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD will lay bare his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see
the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Sing We the Song of Emmanuel

Sung by St. Paul's Adult Choir

Sing we the song of Emmanuel; this, the Christ, who was long foretold. Lo, in the shadows of Bethlehem, Promise of Dawn, now our eyes behold. God, Most High, in a manger laid. Lift your voices and now proclaim. “Great and glorious, Love has come to us.” Join now with the hosts of heaven.

Soloist (Ann Marohn): Come we to welcome Emmanuel; King who came with no crown or throne. Helpless, he lay, the Invincible. Maker of Mary, now Mary's son. Oh, what wisdom to save us all. Shepherds, sages, before him fall. Grace and majesty, what humility. Come on bended knee, adore him.

Go spread the news of Emmanuel. Joy and peace for the weary heart. Lift up your heads, for your King has come. Sing, for the Light overwhelms the dark. Glory shining for all to see. Hope alive, let the gospel ring. God has made a way. He will have the praise. Tell the world his name is Jesus.

Gloria!

Stand

Gospel

John 1:1–14

The Word became flesh and we have seen his glory from the Father.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning.

³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

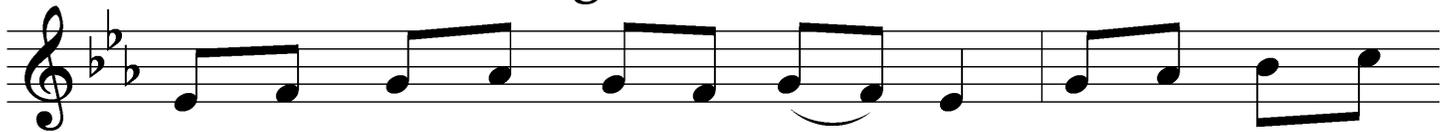
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Of the Father's Love Begotten

CW 358 sts. 1-3



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the vir - gin,
3 This is he whom seers and sa - ges sang of old with



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets



he the source, the end - ing he,
bore the Sav - ior of our race,
prom - ised in their faith - ful word.



of the things that are, that have been,
and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,
Now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed;



and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
first re - vealed his sa - cred face ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
let cre - a - tion praise its Lord ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Sermon Text

Hebrews 1:1–9

God has spoken to us by his Son, the radiance of his glory.

¹In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;
today I have become your Father”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son”?

⁶And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

⁷In speaking of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels spirits,
and his servants flames of fire.”

⁸But about the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions
by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

Sermon

*It doesn't get any better than Christmas!
God's Son came to proclaim – God's Son came to purify*

Stand

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the
Scriptures.**

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Father, we give you thanks and praise on this holy day for sending your one and only Son to share our humanity, carry our guilt, and become for us the perfect Lamb who takes away the sin of the world.

Lord, we praise you.

Keep our faith in your Son alive and strong. Nourish us with your Word and sacraments and by your Holy Spirit give us strength to overcome Satan's power and empty promises. Help us to withstand the temptations the world and our sinful nature put on our path.

Give us faith and courage.

Remember ministers of the gospel throughout the world who on this day are proclaiming that a Savior has been born. We especially commend to your care the missionaries we have called as members of the Wisconsin Synod. Since they cannot enjoy the fellowship of their extended families this Christmas, grant to them the inner joy that comes with service in your kingdom.

Protect all those who proclaim the gospel in our place.

We pray for our city and countryside, for our neighborhoods and subdivisions, and for all who live and work and find delight here. Give to the leaders of government wisdom to make and uphold laws that promote the good of society. Grant our nation peace, health, and prosperity that we may have the opportunity and resources to spread the good news to all people.

Govern and prosper your people.

Fill us with kindness and arouse us to do good to all people, especially those who are less fortunate than we. Bring your healing to those who are sick or diseased in body or mind and comfort those who are mourning the death of someone they love. We especially pray for brothers and sisters who are setting aside their celebration today to care for the sick and stand at the side of the dying.

Sustain those who endure the troubles of life.

Be a source of strength to all your people and fill them with your power and peace. If any are among us today who have lost the true meaning of this festival, let them rediscover the joy that comes from Christ alone.

Let your peace reign in the hearts of all.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

As you sent your Son to bring peace to all people on earth, so we pray for all people, those known and those unknown to us.

We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my \dagger body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my \dagger blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

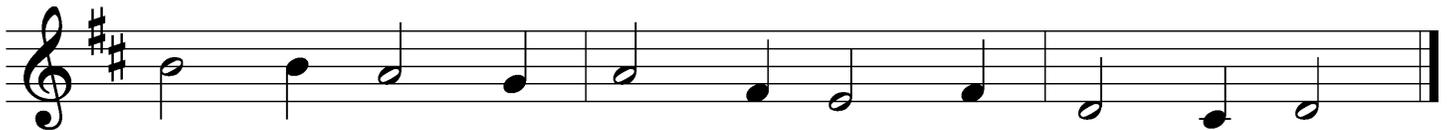
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God

1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can - celled

cross to bleed and die, in per - fect love you
sin, has paid its price; your per - fect love will



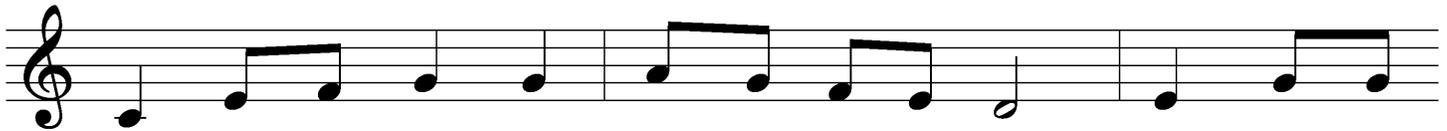
took our place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.
nev - er cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

Be seated

Distribution

Peace Came to Earth

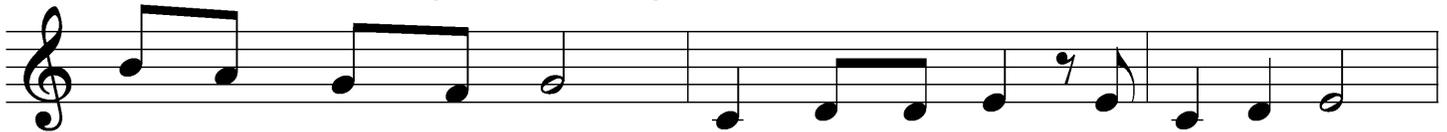
CW 330



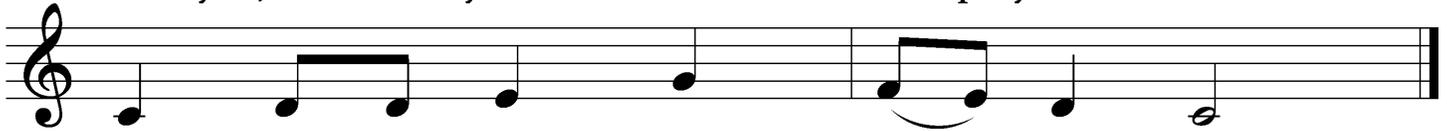
1 Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night when an - gels
2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held the in - fant
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen, in flesh and
4 How else could I have known you, O my God! How else could



clove the sky with song and light and God em - bod - ied
in their arms and lat - er felt the wound - ed hands and
blood you bore our griefs and pain, in bread and wine you
I have loved you, O my God! How else could I em -



love and sheathed his might— Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!
side, all doubts dis - pelled— Who could but sigh: Im - man - u - el!
vis - it us a - gain— Who could but see: Im - man - u - el!
brace you, O my God! Who could but pray: Im - man - u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

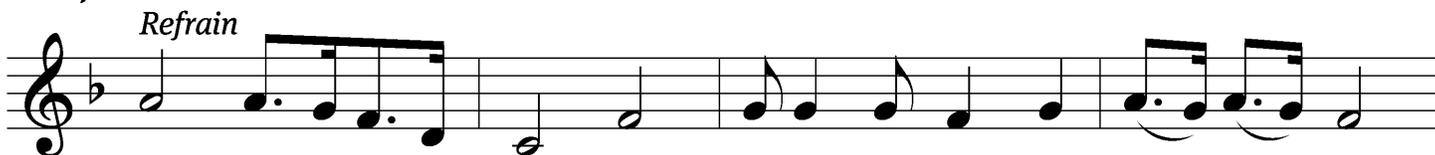
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

CW 361



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 low - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born,



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.

Acknowledgments Setting Three from Christian Worship Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House. Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

SPECIAL MUSIC COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

All songs reprinted, recorded, and streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-722076 and/or CCLI LICENSE #CSPL155743. All rights reserved.

SERVING WITH HEARTS OF LOVE

PASTOR: Rev. Adam Bode

ACCOMPANISTS: Gillian Curia & Kayla Sprenger

MUSICIANS: Rev. Adam Bode, Stan Grzonka, Greg Johnson, Nikki Leahy, Nick & Tanya Schmidt, Jim Van Alstine, and Sue Vant Hul