



HYMN OF THE MONTH

DECEMBER 2025

FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME | LSB 358



The shepherds asked, “What is this thing that has happened?” Luther answers their question in song and poetry.

Stanza 1

***“From heav’n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev’ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:***

On a night when shepherds were doing their job, as they had done for generations, an angel appeared, and the glory of God surrounded them, and they were terrified.

Stanza 2

***“To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.***

The angel said, “Fear not! Go into the little town and you will find a newborn. He is the Savior — *your* Savior. He is the Christ — *your* Christ. He is the Lord — *your* Lord.”

Stanza 3

***“This is the Christ, our God Most High,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.***

This baby hears your bitter cries. This baby will set you free from all your sins. This baby is God Most High.

Stanza 4

***“He will on you the gifts bestow
Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,
You may with us His glory share.***

This infant will shower you with all of God’s gifts. He will call you into His kingdom and wrap you in His glory.

Stanza 5

***“These are the signs that you shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
By whom the heav’ns and earth were made.”***

You won’t find Him in a hospital maternity ward. He’s in a barn, wrapped, and sleeping in a feed bin. But don’t be fooled; He is the one through whom all of Heaven and earth are made.

Stanza 6

***How glad we’ll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us His own dear Son.***

“Let us go over to Bethlehem and see *this thing* that has happened” (Luke 2:15). In stanza 6, we walk down to Bethlehem with the shepherds to see what they called “this thing.” In the stable, we see all that the angels promised: we find the Son of God.

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At St. Paul’s, the Hymn of the Month is sung in our worship each week. May these reflections, written by congregation member and retired LCMS pastor Rev. Tim Wilkins, enrich your worship and devotional focus. In our school, children sing the Hymn of the Month in Chapel, learn stanzas as memory work, and study the hymn in music classes.

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Stanza 7

*Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christ Child lying there.*

Luther now invites us to stand beside the shepherds and see for ourselves. Come and look; against all appearances, this sleeping infant is Christ, the Son of God, our Savior. He is Christ for us.

Stanza 8

*Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery
That You might share Your joy with me.*

All Christians now sing the heart of the Gospel, “Welcome!” “You share my misery that I might share Your joy!”

Stanza 9

*Ah, Lord, though You created all,
How weak You are, so poor and small,
That You should choose to lay Your head
Where lowly cattle lately fed!*

The shepherds look at Jesus and wonder, as we do — how can this be? The Creator of Heaven and earth is sleeping in a feed bin for cows?!

Stanza 10

*Were earth a thousand times as fair
And set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small
A cradle for the Lord of all.*

We reflect and begin to see that nothing on earth is glorious enough for His cradle.

Stanza 11

*Instead of soft and silken stuff
You have but hay and straw so rough
On which as King, so rich and great,
To be enthroned in royal state.*

Instead of a silk cradle, Jesus is enthroned in our poverty.

Stanza 12

*And so it pleases You to see
This simple truth revealed to me:
That worldly honor, wealth, and might
Are weak and worthless in Your sight.*

Jesus did not come for gold, silver, honor, or power. Rather, He has come for us.

Stanza 13

*Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.*

Jesus has come to be enthroned in our hearts.

Stanza 14

*My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:*

To see Jesus asleep in a feed bin, to see Him impoverished on a cross, to see Him walk out of the tomb, to see Him ascend to Heaven — *all for us* — calls us to sing this final stanza with all our hearts:

Stanza 15

*Glory to God in highest heav’n,
Who unto us His Son has giv’n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.*