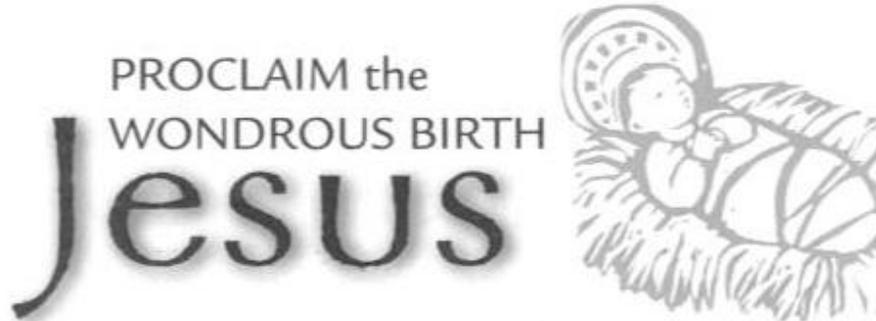




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The Amazing Birth of Jesus

• Darkness Becomes Light •

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:

O, come, let us adore Him ... Christ the Lord.

P *In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

C **Amen.**

P *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;*

C **Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.**

(The Advent Wreath is lit.)

P *Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world."*

C **"Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life."**

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,

Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;

Son of the Father now in flesh appearing!

O, come, let us adore Him ... Christ the Lord.

P *Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

C **For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P *Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found. Let us confess our sins, confident that our gracious God forgives us.*

C **Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of Your name; deliver us, and atone for our sins, for Your name's sake!**

P *Peace be with you! Our crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ tells His Church, "If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven." I, therefore, a called pastor of His Church, by His authority forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

C **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:
O, come, let us adore Him ... Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O, come, let us adore Him ... Christ the Lord.

• Psalm 68 •

P God rises up and scatters His enemies. Those who hate Him run away in defeat. Like windblown smoke and melted wax, the wicked perish in God's presence.

C But the righteous are glad and rejoice in His presence; they are jubilant and shout for joy.

P Prepare a way for Him who rides on the clouds. His name is the Lord—be glad in His presence.

Oh, worship the King, All glorious above.
Oh, gratefully sing His pow'r and His love.
Our shield and defender, The Ancient of Days.
Pavilioned in splendor, And girded with praise.

• The Prayer of the Day •

• Old Testament Lesson • Isaiah 9:2-7

“To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given.”

• Epistle Lesson • Galatians 3:26—4:7

“God sent forth His Son, born of a woman.”

• The Holy Gospel • Luke 1:26-35

“The Child to be born will be called Holy—the Son of God.”

• Children's Sermon •

Theme Hymn • Tune: O Little

Town of Bethlehem

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 darkness shineth The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

A child is born, a promise giv'n: the end of guilt and grave.
God's Son, alive in Bethlehem, has come, the world to save.
Praise Father, Son and Spirit, praise Him in heav'n above
Who stoops to earth to visit us with His eternal love.

• The Amazing Birth of Jesus •

God's Gift to the World

A child is born in Bethlehem, the Savior promised long
In scrolls of prophets' promises; loud hailed in angels' song.
Emmanuel, God with us, has come to heal the earth.
With sages, saints and angel tongues,
proclaim the wondrous birth.

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:
Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

• Apostles' Creed •

• The Offering •

The Prayers • Response

P *God of Mary,*

C **Hear our prayer.**

• The Lord's Prayer •

The Benediction • Psalm 68, Numbers 6

P *You ascended on high, leading a host of captives in your train and receiving gifts among men, even among the rebellious, that the Lord God may dwell there.*

C **Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation.**

P *The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.*

C **Amen.**

• Hymn •

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born 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!"

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

Christ, by highest heaven 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!

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

Hail, the heavenly Prince of Peace!

Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all He brings,

Risen with healing in His wings.

Mild He leaves His throne on high,

Born that man no more may die;

Born to raise the sons of earth;

Born to give them second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

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