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# Interviews with Isaiah

Christmas • The Child

Opening Responsory ... St. Thomas

P *Come, O house of Jacob,*

C **Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

P *The glory of the Lord shone around them,*

C **and they were terrified.**

P *The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it,*

C **For the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.**

*Come, walk into the light to meet our glorious King  
To flee the darkness of the night and gladsome praises bring.*

P *The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him—*

C **The Spirit of wisdom and understanding.**

P *Glory to God in the highest,*

C **and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.**

P *The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!"*

C **And let the one who hears say, "Come!"**

*The Spirit gives us peace that fills our hearts with hope  
To give our sin-sick souls release and with our trials cope.*

P *And a highway will be there;*

C **it will be called the Way of Holiness.**

P *"Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has  
happened, which the Lord has told us about."*

C **So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the  
Baby who was lying in the manger.**

P *Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as  
clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the  
Lamb*

C **down the middle of the great street of the city.**

*This life a journey is through valleys dark and gray  
But God walks with all who are His to help along the way*

P *Oh, that You would rend the heavens and come down,*

C **that the mountains would tremble before You!**

P *While they were there, the time came for the Baby to be  
born,*

C **and she gave birth to her firstborn, a Son.**

P *"Behold, I am coming soon!"*

C **Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this  
book.**

*While in this world we wait for Christ again to come,  
God grant us grace to celebrate until our labor's done.*

P *The virgin will be with Child and will give birth to a Son,*

**C and will call Him Immanuel.**

P *When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this Child,*

**C and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.**

P *Those who are victorious will inherit all this,*

**C and I will be their God and they will be My children.**

*The Child, God's only Son, brings heav'n's presence here  
To make us with the Father one and His own children dear.*

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

P *The Christ Candle is lit to remind us of the birth of the Child.*

**C The Child, Jesus, is Himself a sign.**

P *The Child, Jesus, is born of a virgin.*

**C The Child, Jesus, is Immanuel, "God with us."**

P *The Christ Candle is lit to remind us of the birth of the Child.*

**C Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

### **Confession and Absolution**

P *Immanuel means "God with us." When we sin, having "God with us" causes great fear. Like evil children we deserve punishment from a righteous Father. We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. Come to us, Holy One of Israel, not in wrath, but in the love of Your perfect Child, Immanuel. If this is your confession, respond by saying, "I do so confess, and I ask for Your forgiveness."*

**C I do so confess and I ask for your forgiveness.**

P *Jesus is Immanuel, "God with us" in the flesh. The Child was born to live a perfect life, to suffer and die, and to rise again for the sins of the world. The Child has come to bring you grace and life. In His name, because of His birth 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.*

**C Amen.**

### **Hymn of Praise ... Greensleeves**

*What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?*

*Whom angels greet with anthems sweet*

*While shepherds watch are keeping?*

*This, this is Christ the king,*

*whom shepherds guard and angels sing;*

*Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?*

*Good Christian, fear; for sinners here*

*the silent Word is pleading.*

*Nails, spear shall pierce him through,*

*The cross be borne for me, for you;*

*Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!*

### **Prayer of the Day**

P *Lord Jesus Christ, You are Immanuel, God With Us. Be present with us on this Night of nights as we sing praises with the angels and shout Your name along with the*

*shepherds. We thank You for the certain sign of life, love and forgiveness as You come to us through The Child in Bethlehem's manger.*

**C Amen.**

### **Old Testament Reading ... Isaiah 7:10-17**

*Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.  
The Bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.*

### **Epistle Reading ... Hebrews 2:10-18**

*The watchers on the mountain proclaim the Bridegroom near;  
Go forth as He approaches with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory; the Bridegroom is at hand.*

### **Gospel Reading ... Luke 2:1-20**

*The saints who here in patience  
their cross and suff'rings bore,  
Shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;  
In triumph cast before Him their diadems of gold.*

*Isaiah sees a virgin who will conceive a Son.  
She'll call His name Immanuel, our God's own promised one.  
He is the perfect presence of heaven's mighty Lord,  
He was in the beginning creation's potent Word.*

## **Children's Sermon**

### **Sermon Hymn ... Away in a Manger**

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed.  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.*

## **Sermon**

### **Offering and Prayers**

Each petition ends with this response:

**P** *O people of God,*

**C** *Come, let us walk in the presence of Immanuel.*

### **Lord's Prayer and Benediction**

## **Closing Hymn ... Joy to the World!**

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love.*

