

The Stars Tell the Story

Service Five: The Morning Star • Christ

Order of Service

We Gather ... Morning Star

P *In the name of God our Father and of Christ Jesus our hope.*

C: **Amen.**

How lovely shines the Morning Star!
The nations see and hail afar
The light in Judah shining.
O David's Son of Jacob's race,
my Bridegroom and my King of Grace,
For you my heart is pining.
Lowly, holy, great and glorious,
O victorious Prince of graces,
Filling all the heav'nly places.

Psalm 148:1-6

O highest joy by mortals won,
true Son of God and Mary's Son,
The high-born King of ages!
You are my heart's most lovely Flow'r,
and your blest Gospel's saving power
My raptured soul engages.
Claim me, name me; sing hosanna!
Heav'nly manna tasting, eating,
While your love in songs repeating.

Psalm 148:7-10

A pledge of peace from God I see
when your pure eyes are turned to me
to show me your good pleasure.
Jesus, your Spirit and your Word,
your body and your blood, afford
my soul its dearest treasure.
Keep me, kindly in your favor,
O my Savior! Shine upon me,
for your gracious Word has won me.

Psalm 148:11-14

(Lighting of the Advent Wreath)

P *Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world." (John 8:12)*

C: **"Walk while you have the Light before the darkness overtakes you."** (John 12:35)

Lift up the voice and strike the string,
let all glad sounds of music ring
in God's high praises blended.
Christ will be with me all the way,
today, tomorrow, every day,
till traveling days are ended.
Sing out, ring out triumph glorious,
O victorious, chosen nation;
Praise the God of your salvation.

Prayer of the Day

Confession and Absolution

P *As we rejoice in the birth of our Savior, we also realize that He came to die for our sins. Truthfully, we sometimes wonder whether we will be found in faith when He comes again as the Bright Morning Star to be our Judge and King. Let us, therefore, confess our sins to God our Maker and Redeemer and beg His forgiveness.*

(Silence for reflection and prayer)

C: **Lord God, it was my sin and Your love that brought Your Son to earth. It is to bring me to Your glory that He will someday come again. If it were today, I confess that I am lacking. I have not loved you with all my heart or my neighbor as myself. My words, actions and thoughts fall short of Your holy will. Forgive me. Change my heart. Grant me faith in Jesus Christ your Son that I might know Your will and be received into glory when He comes again.**

P *God is gracious. He has seen your sorrow for sin and heard your plea for mercy. Jesus Christ, God's Son, has died for all your sins and has risen to assure you of eternal life. As His called and ordained servant, in His stead and at His command, I 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.**

Old Testament Lesson ... Job 38:1-18

P *This is the word of the Lord, the Creator of the earth, stars and sea.*

C: **Thanks be to God. May we and all the angels glorify you.**

Epistle Lesson ... Revelation 22:16-17

P *This is the word of the Lord, the offspring of David, the bright Morning Star.*

C: **Thanks be to God, who bids us come and drink of the water of life.**

Holy Gospel ... Luke 2:1-20

P *This is the Gospel of our Lord, as a Baby, laid in a manger, as a man, crucified for sinners.*

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ. Your glory shines brighter than the angels because you left heaven to be our Savior.**

Children's Sermon

Theme Hymn ... Melody: Gloria

Let the stars their story tell,
For the heavens know it well:
How the Son of God, enfleshed,
Came to breathe our mortal breath.

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

When the time had fully come,
God revealed his only Son,
Morning Star and living Light,
Brightening sin's darkest night.

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

So may we in glory glow
With your presence, here below.
Grant that we the story tell
Which the heavens know so well.

Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

—The Morning Star • Christ—

The Creed and Offering

Pastoral Prayers

(This response is made:)

P *Lord, in Your mercy,*

C: **Hear our prayer.**

The Lord's Prayer

We Are Sent... O Little Town Of Bethlehem

P *In His right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.* (Revelation 1:16)

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 dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

P *For those who revere My name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.*

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: #380

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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