

2025 Children's Christmas Service

The Christmas Message

Presented by the Children

Evergreens

Around this time of year, we begin to see signs that Christmas is coming! Christmas trees are decorated, and wreaths are hung. Nativities are set up, and lights are strung. Gifts are wrapped, and carols are sung! Today, we look at some of these “decoration preparations” to see how they prepare us for Christmas—and for the coming of our Savior, Jesus!

We call the four weeks before Christmas *Advent*, which means “coming.” During the Advent season, we prepare for Jesus’ first coming as a baby in the manger. But we also look forward to His second coming, when Jesus will return in glory and take all believers to live with Him forever.

From Christmas trees to garlands to wreaths, evergreens are some of the first Christmas decorations we see in Advent. The green color of evergreens signifies life. It reminds us that Jesus came to restore the eternal life that had been lost when sin came into the world. When Adam and Eve sinned, death came into the world. But our loving God promised to send a Savior who would defeat death and give us new life in Him.

God’s people waited thousands of years for the Savior. At just the right time in history, the angel Gabriel came to Mary to announce that the Savior was finally coming. The Savior would come as a baby, carried and born by her.

We hear from *Luke 1:30–33*: “*The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.’*”

ACTION RHYME

based on Mary and the Angel (Fingers Tell the Story, p. 7)

Mary saw an angel.
First she was afraid.
Then she listened carefully.
This is what he said:

“You will have a baby,
Jesus, God’s own Son.
He will be the Savior
Sent for everyone.”

Mary then was happy,
Are you happy too?
God, you see, sent Jesus
Down to earth for you

CHILDREN’S SONG

Little Baby Jesus (Sing & Wonder, p. 34)

Text: Kaellyn Marrs. © 2015 Concordia Publishing House

Little Baby Jesus, In Your mother’s arms;
Rocked to sleep so gently, Safe from harm.

Little Baby Jesus, Mary’s little one;
Sleeping in a stable, God’s own Son.

Little Baby Jesus, You came from above;
Came to earth to save me, All for love.

Christmas Lights

Colorful, twinkling Christmas lights are a sure sign that Christmas is coming! We put lights on our houses and on our Christmas trees. We place electric candles in our windows and light the candles on the Advent wreath. These lights signify hope and joy during the dark days of winter.

In the Bible, darkness symbolizes sin that separates us from God. The prophet Isaiah foretold that the Messiah would come to shine light into this dark world. We hear from *Isaiah 9:2*: “*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.*”

Jesus is the light Isaiah prophesied about! The very beginning of the Gospel of John describes the light that Jesus brought into a dark world.

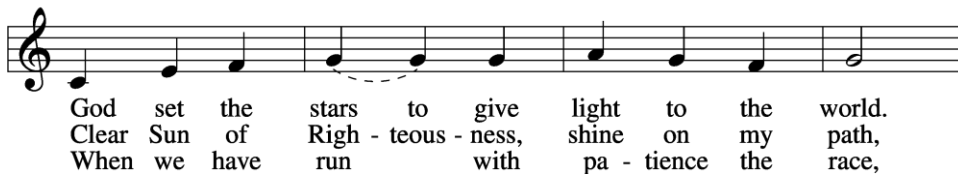
We hear from *John 1*: “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world*” (vv. 1, 4–5, 9).

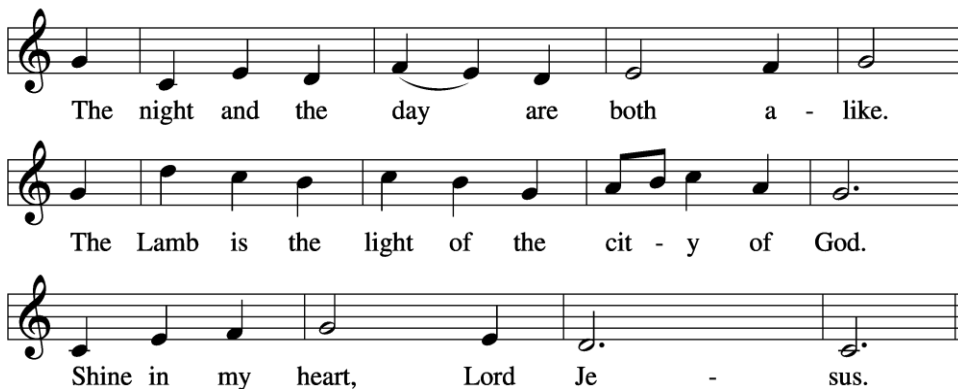
RECITATION

The people that in darkness sat
A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light ~ LSB 411





Text and tune: Kathleen Thomerson, 1934–2025
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Crèche

There is one Christmas decoration that is very clearly Christian: the crèche. *Crèche* comes from the Latin word for “cradle” or “crib,” referring to Jesus’ “crib,” the manger!

A crèche is a model of the nativity scene, and it tells the true story of Christmas. Figures of Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus are set in a stable, often with shepherds and animals looking on.

The crèche reminds us that Jesus’ birth was a real, historical event! God came down from heaven to live as one of us. Jesus is Immanuel, God with us!

The birth of Jesus Christ from *Luke 2*: “*In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town.*”

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn” (vv. 1–7).

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN VERSE

What Child Is This ~ LSB 370 stz 1



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
 sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
 shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98; Tune: English, 16th cent.; Text and tune: Public domain

CHILDREN'S SONG

Away in a Manger ~ LSB 364

Text: Little Children's Book, Philadelphia, 1885, sts. 1–2; Vineyard Songs, Louisville, 1892, st. 3, alt. Public domain

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 baby awakes,
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.

Christmas Carols

Turn on the radio or walk into any store during Advent and you will hear them: Christmas carols! Singing Christmas carols is a beautiful way to prepare our hearts for Christmas. These carols invite us to sing with the angels, proclaiming good news of great joy—a Savior has been born to us! We hear the Christmas story continued from *Luke 2*:

“And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.

And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.’

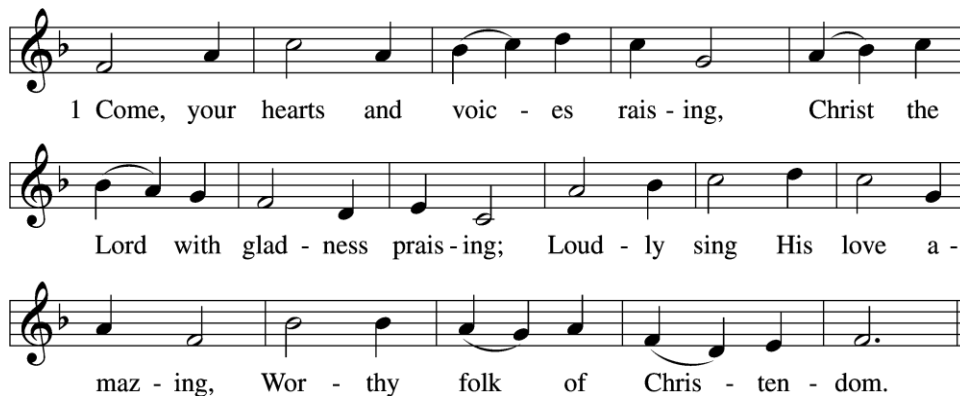
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!’ ” (vv. 2:8–14).

“When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.’ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them” (Luke 2:15–20).

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN VERSE

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising ~ LSB 375 stz 1



*ext: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Tune: German, 14th cent.
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CHILDREN and CONGREGATION HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High ~ LSB 368

Children

Angels we have heard on high,
 Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
 And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Congregation



2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
3 Come to Beth-le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French; tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, London, 1862, alt. Public domain

Gifts

We know Christmas is getting close when gifts start appearing under the tree! Giving gifts is one way we show friends and family that we love and care about them. But all our gifts in fancy wrapping paper seem like nothing compared to the real gift of Christmas—Jesus!

God the Father gave us the gifts of forgiveness and eternal life when He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth on that first Christmas night. Jesus came to earth because of His great love for us and all people.

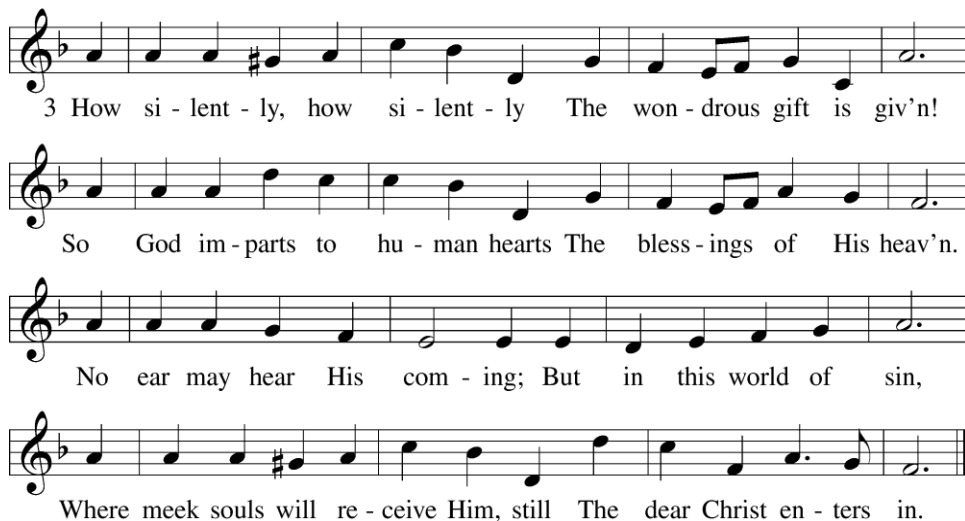
The gift of Jesus the Savior is for everyone, for the whole world!

God showed His desire for all to be saved when He placed a star in the heavens to guide Wise Men from the East to the Savior of the world. That special star guided the Wise Men to the place where Jesus was. Matthew writes, *“The star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.*

And going into the house they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh” (Matthew 2:9–11).

Soon, Christmas will be here! As we enjoy our Christmas decorations, we remember what they point to: the greatest gift ever given, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN VERSE *O Little Town of Bethlehem ~ LSB 361 stz 3*



3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!

So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.

No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,

Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93; Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908; Text and tune: Public domain

RESPONSIVE READING

- P** Prepare our hearts, Lord Jesus;
C turn not from us aside,
P and help us to receive You
C this blessed Adventtide.
P From stall and manger low come now to dwell within us;
C we'll sing Your praises gladly and forth Your glory show.

PRAYER

- P** Let us pray.
C Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son to be our Savior. You have given us the best gift of all: Christ Jesus, who came to earth so that we might have life with You forever. In His name we pray. Amen.

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION

Reverend Jonathan G. Schultz