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*[www.siloahlutheran.org](http://www.siloahlutheran.org)*

**Christmas Day Worship – 10 AM- December 25, 2025**

***Presiding: Rev. Dr. Paul Steinberg***

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## Welcome



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The pattern of these services has become familiar because of similar services held each year in the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, England. First scheduled in 1918, the King's service is held at 3:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and is broadcast all over the world. Entitled *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*, the event includes a traditional set of nine scripture readings and several hymns sung every year by the congregation. Additional service music, much of it based on well-known Christmas carols, is offered by the world famous Choir of King's College. In the King's service, the individual lessons are read by members of the choir and by representatives of the civic, chapel, and university communities. The reader ends each lesson by saying, "Thanks be to God."

The traditional order of service follows with its traditional readings and hymns. Where anthems normally occur, several hymns have been suggested: the first hymn is known by most congregations; the second selection may be sung by a choir or soloist.

## 50 Once in Royal David's City

By Senior Choir

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a  
Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er  
cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and mean and

mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-1895, abr., alt.  
Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Bidding Prayer

Dear people of God, in this Christmas season, it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us—the Christ Child lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy child.

But first, let us pray for people all over the world who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ and who would join with us in singing his

praises. Let us pray for the people of this *city/place* and for all those in our own congregation.

And, because this would please our Lord, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, and the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, those who do not love him, and those who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another.

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## 35 Of the Father's Love Begotten

1 Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the vir - gin,  
 gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 he the source, the end - ing he,  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race,  
 of the things that are, that have been,  
 and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,  
 and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 first re - vealed his sa - cred face ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–c. 413, abr.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
 Tune: plainsong, 13th cent.  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## First Lesson

Genesis 3:8–15

*The Seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head.*

<sup>8</sup>Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

<sup>10</sup>He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

<sup>11</sup>And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

<sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

<sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup>So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>And I will put enmity between you and the woman,

and between your offspring and hers;

he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

## 2 Savior of the Nations, Come

sts. 1–3



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, by the  
3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child of the



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O  
Spir - it of our God was the Word of  
vir - gin un - de - filed, though by all the



heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
God made flesh, wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.  
world dis - owned, yet to be in heav'n en - throned!

Text: Ambrose of Milan, 340–397, abr.; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–1876, alt.  
Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15–18

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*

<sup>15</sup>The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time <sup>16</sup>and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, <sup>18</sup>and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

## 28 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

sts. 1–3, 5



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has tru - ly  
2 What the fa - thers most de - sired, what the proph - ets'  
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,  
5 Crush for me the ser - pent's head that, set free from



kept his word and at last to us did send  
heart in - spired, what they longed for man - y\_a year  
Ja - cob's Lord— him of two - fold race be - hold—  
doubt and dread, I may cling to you in faith,



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.  
tru - ly came, as long fore - told.  
safe - ly kept through life and death,

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–1659, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter  
Text and tune: Public domain

### Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.*

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this.



## CW 21 - 381 The People Who in Darkness Walked

sts. 1-3



1 The peo - ple who in dark - ness walked have seen a glo - rious  
2 To us a child of hope is born, to us a son is  
3 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, the Ev - er - last - ing



light; the heav'n - ly dawn broke forth on those who  
giv'n, and on his shoul - ders ev - er rests all  
Lord, the Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, the



dwelt in death and night, who dwelt in death and night.  
pow'r in earth and heav'n, all pow'r in earth and heav'n.  
God by all a - dored, the God by all a - dored.

Text: John Morison, 1749-1798, abr., alt.

Tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561

Text and tune: Public domain

## Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9

*A Branch from the stump of Jesse will bear fruit.*

<sup>1</sup>A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup>The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of might,  
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—

<sup>3</sup>and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

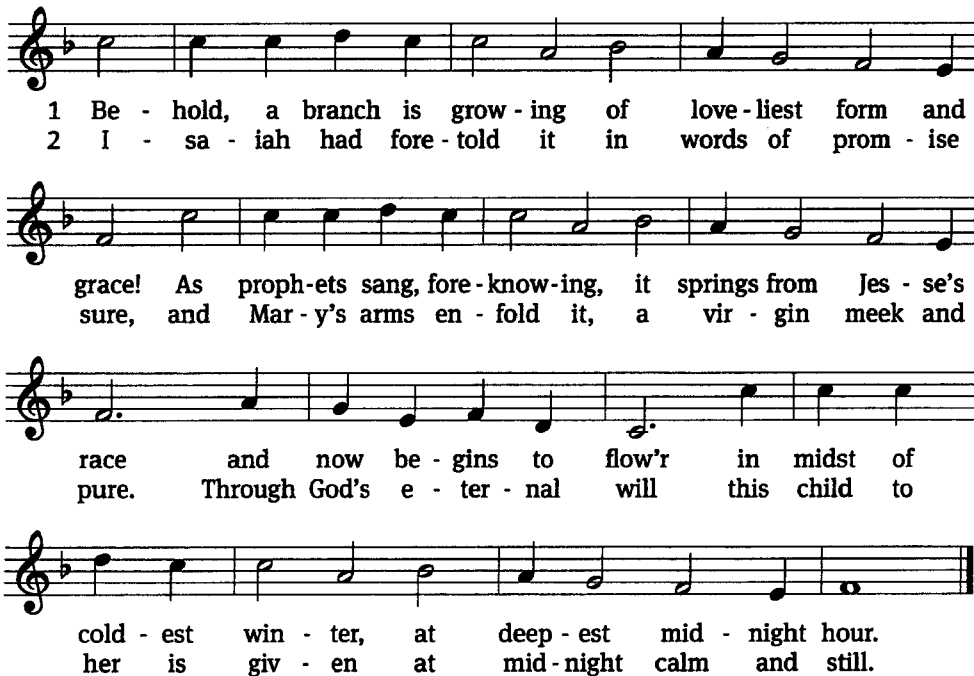
<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he will judge the needy,  
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;

with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.  
<sup>5</sup>Righteousness will be his belt  
 and faithfulness the sash around his waist.  
<sup>6</sup>The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
 the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead  
 them.  
<sup>7</sup>The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together,  
 and the lion will eat straw like the ox.  
<sup>8</sup>The infant will play near the cobra's den,  
 and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.  
<sup>9</sup>They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,  
 for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD  
 as the waters cover the sea.

## 47 Behold, a Branch Is Growing

sts. 1-2



1 Be - hold, a branch is grow - ing of love - liest form and  
 2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it in words of prom - ise

grace! As proph - ets sang, fore - know - ing, it springs from Jes - se's  
 sure, and Mar - y's arms en - fold it, a vir - gin meek and

race and now be - gins to flow'r in midst of  
 pure. Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to

cold - est win - ter, at deep - est mid - night hour.  
 her is giv - en at mid - night calm and still.

Text: German, 16th cent.; tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845-1925  
 Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, Köln, 1599  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26–35, 38

*The angel Gabriel announces to Mary the birth of a son.*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup>Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup>"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

<sup>38</sup>"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

## 24 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
 2 "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's de - cree:  
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
 4 Of her Im - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame:  
 a bless - ed vir - gin moth - er you shall be.  
 "To me be as it pleas - es God," she said.  
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail," said he to meek and low - ly Mar - y,  
 Your son shall be Im - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "My soul shall praise and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name."  
 and Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say,



"most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!  
 "most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored maid - en, Glo - ri - a!  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!

Text: Basque, c. 18th cent.; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, alt.

Tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

*St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

## 68 Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
 I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.  
 and take us to heav - en to live with you there.

Text (sts. 1-2): The Myrtle, Boston, 1884; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, Louisville, 1892, alt.  
 Tune: James R. Murray, 1841-1905  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:8–20

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

<sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

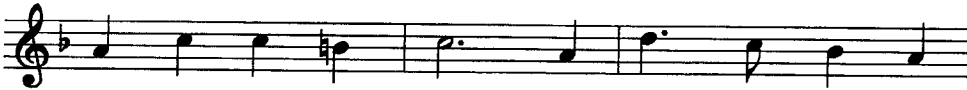
<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

<sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

## CW 21 - 336 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night<sup>sts. 1-4</sup>



1 While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all  
 2 "Fear not," said he for might - y dread had  
 3 "To you, in Da - vid's town, this day is  
 4 "The heav'n - ly babe you there shall find to



seat - ed on the ground, an an - gel of the  
 seized their trou - bled mind; "glad ti - dings of great  
 born of Da - vid's line a Sav - ior, who is  
 hu - man view dis - played, all hum - bly wrapped in



Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.  
 joy I bring to you and all man - kind.  
 Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:  
 swad - dling clothes and in a man - ger laid."

Text: Nahum Tate, 1652-1715, alt.

Tune: The Whole Booke of Psalmes, London, 1592; attr. George Kirbye, c. 1560-1634

Text and tune: Public domain

## Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

*The Magi are led by the star to Jesus.*

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

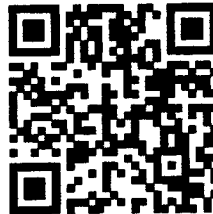
<sup>6</sup>“ But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

<sup>9</sup>After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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## 83 As with Gladness Men of Old

sts. 1-3



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be-hold,  
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to thy low-ly bed,  
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare at thy cra-dle, rude and bare,



as with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright,  
there to bend the knee be-fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore,  
so may we with ho-ly joy, pure and free from sin's al-loy,



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev-er-more be led by thee.  
so may we with will-ing feet ev-er seek thy mer-cy seat.  
all our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly King.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.  
Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872, alt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

## Ninth Lesson

John 1:1–14

*St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

*Be seated*

## **Sermonette: Christmas Camping Makes for Family**

# 55 O Come, All Ye Faithful

sts. 1, Ref, 4



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come\_ ye to Beth - le - hem!  
Je - sus, to thee\_ be all glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, alt.  
Tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786, alt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with such joy that comes from the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the + Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

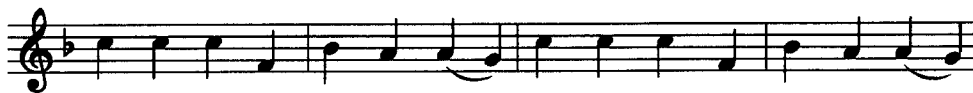
## 61 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness!



peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of a vir-gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na-tions rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see, hail th' in-car-nate De - i - ty!  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th' an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le - hem!"  
 Pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im-man-u - el!  
 born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec-ond birth.

### *Refrain*



Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847

Text and tune: Public domain

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from Christian Worship

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