



St. Lucas Lutheran Elementary School



ST. LUCAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN

Christmas Eve – Joy Has Dawned, A Children’s Christmas Service

December 24th, 2024

O Come, All Ye Faithful

CW 354

Stand for the 4th stanza



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come_ ye to Beth - le - hem!
born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes!
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee_ be all glo - ry giv'n!

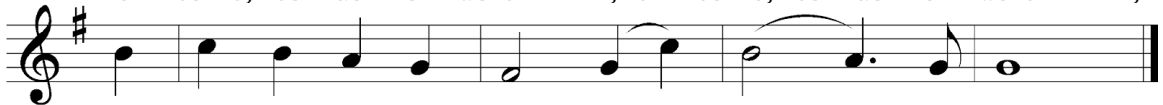


Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:
On - ly - be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther:
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



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: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786

Tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Opening Dialogue

selected verses from Psalm 65

Praise awaits you, our God, in Zion;

to you our vows will be fulfilled.

You who answer prayer,

to you all people will come.

When we were overwhelmed by sins,

you forgave our transgressions.

Blessed are those you choose and bring near to live in your courts!

We are filled with the good things of your house, of your holy temple.

The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders;

where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy.

O Jesus Christ, your manger is our paradise at which we now recline. There, O Lord, we find the Word made flesh for us; there, O Lord, your grace brightly shines. Move us by your Spirit to depend on you alone; enable us to be of good cheer; keep us steadfast in the midst of sorrow; fix our hearts on you, our greatest treasure. For in you and through faith in you we possess a lasting crown and look forward to honor beyond measure in the eternal glories of heaven. We ask these things in your name, our Savior and Lord (*based on "O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is" [CW 342]*).

Amen.

Be seated

1. THE DAWN OF TIME

Narration (Hannah Schepp):

"In the beginning . . ." These familiar words from Genesis launch the account of God creating the universe. The eternal God, who knows no beginning and no end, created time.

Grades 2-3 Recitation:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day (Genesis 1:1,3-5).

Narration (Hannah Schepp):

From there we hear about the creation of water and sky, land and vegetation, stars and planets, and all animals in the sky and in the waters and on the land. And then God created humans.

Grades 4-5 Recitation:

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them (Genesis 1:26-27).

Narration (Hannah Schepp):

After creating the first man and woman, God established marriage and gave humans their purpose. He blessed these people, named Adam and Eve, and said to them:

Grades 6 & 8 Recitation:

“Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so (Genesis 1:28-30).

Narration (Eisley Enright):

God also made a way for humans to show their love for him—he gave them a command that they could follow.

Grades 2-3 Recitation:

The Lord God commanded . . . “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die” (Genesis 2:16-17).

Narration (Hannah Schepp):

The record of the dawning of time concludes with these joy-filled observations:

Grade K- 1 Recitation:

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good (Genesis 1:31).

Angels from the Realms of Glory

*CW 347 sts. 1,4,5
Sung by grades K-3*

2. THE DAWN OF HOPE

Narration (Asher Peters):

It was not long before the perfection and joy in all of God's creation were shattered, and God's perfect relationship with humans was severed. It began in heaven. In the last book of the Bible, we are told that shortly after God created all that there is, a rebellion took place, led by an angel of light who became an agent of darkness.

Congregation:

War broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him (Revelation 12:7-9).

Narration (Asher Peters):

Back in the first book of the Bible, we hear what this devil, Satan, did next. He seeded doubts and spread lies. He did only what his fallen nature could do: deceive, harm, and relentlessly pursue the spiritual death of God's beloved children.

Congregation:

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:1-5).

Narration (Teagan Kiser):

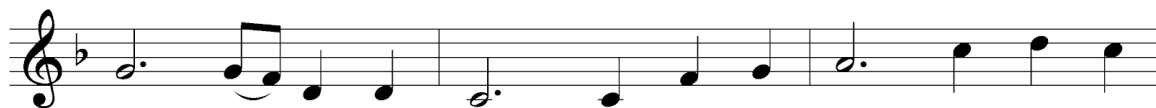
And then it happened. Love for following God's command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was replaced by rebellion against his command. Eve ate. Adam accepted her offer of the fruit and also ate. Sin and all its evil effects had entered the world. Adam and Eve realized they were naked and they felt shame. They heard God walking in the garden and hid in fear. They avoided any blame for their wrongdoing at all cost.

The Tree of Life

CW 574 sts. 1-2



1 The tree of life with ev - 'ry good in E - den's
2 The still - ness of that sa - cred grove was bro - ken



ho - ly or - chard stood, and of its fruit so pure and
as the ser - pent strove with tempt - ing voice Eve to be -



sweet God let the man and wom - an eat. Yet in this
guile and Ad - am too by sin de - file. O day of



gar - den al - so grew an - oth - er tree, of
sad - ness when the breath of fear and dark - ness,



which they knew; its love - ly limbs with fruit a -
doubt and death, its aw - ful poi - son first dis -



dorned a - gainst whose eat - ing God had warned.
played with - in the world so new - ly made.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955

Tune: Bruce W. Becker, b. 1952

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Tune: © 1995 Bruce W. Becker. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703484

Narration (Teagan Kiser):

Adam and Eve's rebellion had immediate and severe consequences:

Congregation:

To [Eve, God] said "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return" (Genesis 3:16-19).

Narration (Alec Nagel):

A great darkness had come over and into creation—not in physical light but in life now and forever. Pain, curses, adversities, tiring and aggravated daily effort, broken relationships, and worst of all—physical death and eternal separation from God for eternity. The prophet Isaiah sums up this darkness that by nature is at the center of every human soul and into which all are born:

Congregation:

Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness (Isaiah 8:21-22).

Narration (Alec Nagel):

Can there be any hope after this great and eternal fall? After meriting nothing but distress, death, and eternal darkness? Yes! Returning to Genesis, we immediately read this promise from God, graciously given to Adam and Eve after their fateful choice:

Congregation:

The Lord God said to the serpent, . . . "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" (Genesis 3:14-15).

Narration (Alec Nagel):

There it is . . . the dawn of hope! The first promise of a Savior who would crush the devil and redeem humanity from his evil grasp. The prophet Isaiah repeats this promise with greater detail:

Congregation:

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned (Isaiah 9:2).

Congregation:

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. 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 (Isaiah 9:6-7).

All:

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this (Isaiah 9:7).

Behold, a Branch Is Growing CW 360



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
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



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
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - 'ry -
woes, O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, who con - quered all our



race and now be - gins to flow'r in midst of
pure. Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to
where. True man, and yet true God, from sin and
foes, bring us at last, we pray, to the bright



cold - est win - ter, at deep - est mid - night hour.
her is giv - en at mid - night calm and still.
death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

Text: German, 16th cent.; (sts. 1–3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925; (st. 4): John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, alt.
Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, Köln, 1599
Text and tune: Public domain

3. THE DAWN OF JOY

Narration (Molly Tamayo):

A promise made is only good if it is kept. God repeated the promise of a Savior for hundreds of years, offering more details about the circumstances of the Savior’s appearing and keeping it central in the minds and hearts of his people as they endured the many ups and downs of their sin-filled existence.

Narration (Alaina Pickering):

But would it ever happen? Would the Savior ever appear? Generation after generation died still waiting. Would God ever fulfill that promise? Would he keep it? The gospel writers report the details. When the time was right, God sent his messenger to a young virgin named Mary.

Grades 6 & 8 Recitation:

God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 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, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end” (Luke 1:26-28,31-33).

Grades 4-5 Recitation:

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” 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” (Luke 1:34-35).

Narration (Molly Tamayo):

A pregnant virgin? Yes, just as Isaiah foretold. But that would cause quite a stir in the community—an unmarried woman found to be pregnant! Matthew records the commotion and God’s faithfulness to his salvation promise and plan.

Grades 6 & 8 Recitation:

Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly (Matthew 1:18-19).

Grades 2-3 Recitation:

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him (Matthew 1:20-21,24).

Narration (Eisley Enright):

Trusting in God's promises, Mary and Joseph moved forward to the blessed day of the Savior's birth. Luke records the final details of that first Christmas.

Grades 4-5 Recitation:

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

Grades 2-3 Recitation:

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. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child (Luke 2:4-5).

Grades 6 & 8 Recitation:

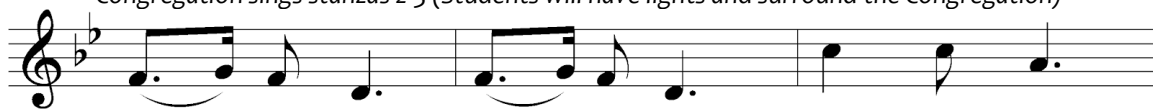
While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them (Luke 2:6-7).

Silent Night, Holy Night

CW 337 sts. 1-3

K-8 sing stanza 1 in German and then English

Congregation sings stanzas 2-3 (Students will have lights and surround the Congregation)



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts — sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885; Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848

Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787-1863

Text and tune: Public domain

Narration (Alaina Pickering):

When Jesus—the world's long-promised and only Savior—was born, God ensured that the news began spreading immediately. Luke continues his report:

Grades 4-5 Recitation:

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them,

and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:8-12).

Narration (Eisley Enright):

“To you.” Those words know no bounds of time or culture, of status or reputation, of sin or shame or guilt. This event wasn’t just for the shepherds—it’s for all of us too! Jesus was born to be your Savior and mine . . . the dawn of joy for all the world! Such joyous news calls for glorious praise. And the shepherds saw and heard just that.

Grades K-1 Recitation:

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests” (Luke 2:13-14).

Grade K-8 Hymn “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (CW 350) sts. 1,2

4. THE DAWN OF “CHRISTIANS”

Narration (Eliana Schepp):

The good news of the long-awaited birth of the Savior had a remarkable effect on these shepherds. Luke tells us:

Grades 2-3 Recitation:

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” (Luke 2:15).

Grades K-1 Recitation:

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger (Luke 2:16).

Narration (Saphira Heberer):

And what did the shepherds do after finding Jesus in the manger? Luke tells us that “they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child” and that they returned to their fields and flocks “glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told” (Luke 2:17-18). The birth of Jesus was a turning point in history, from waiting on the fulfillment of a promise to sharing the news of a promise fulfilled. They wouldn’t be called Christians until some decades later, but the birth of Jesus was

the dawning of a new name for the people of God, followers of the God-man, Jesus. Luke tells us in his other book in the Bible, Acts:

Grades 4-5 Recitation:

For a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch (Acts 11:26).

Narration (Eliana Schepp):

Like the shepherds that first Christmas night, God's believers share throughout the world the good news of sins forgiven in Jesus. And the Lord blesses that effort. Luke shares this report about those first-called Christians:

Grades 6 & 8 Recitation:

Those who had been scattered by persecution . . . traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus and Antioch, spreading the word only among Jews. Some of them, however, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, went to Antioch and began to speak to Greeks also, telling them the good news about the Lord Jesus. The Lord's hand was with them, and a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord (Acts 11:19-21).

Narration (Saphira Heberer):

The good news that began at Christmas culminated in Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Jesus' death in our place redeemed us from all our sin. His resurrection defeated death forever. This salvation is ours. This free gift is ours to share with everyone.

Grades K-8 Recitation:

Joy has dawned for you, for me, for all.

Grades 4-8 Hymn:

Joy Has Dawned

CW 352

Sung by grades 4-8

Offering: *God's people offer their first and best to the Lord in response to the Lord's blessings to them. The offering is gathered in a basket in the church entrance before or after the service. If you prefer to give electronically, you may scan this graphic to access www.stlucaswels.org/donate.*



Stand

Prayer

Gracious Father, when the time had fully come, you sent your Son to carry out your plan to save the world from the tyranny of sin, the threat of death, and the power of Satan. On this holy night, strengthen our faith as we ponder the depth of your divine love.

Lead us to quiet awe as we remember your gracious compassion.

Impress on us the poverty and pain your Son endured in our place, how he willingly set aside his power and place and assumed the weakness of an infant and the starkness of a stable. Lead us to acknowledge the sins which compelled his humiliation and the love which accepted his lowliness.

Forgive us and move us to trust in his mission to save us.

Take away our fears and fright and fill us with joy as we hear the message that Jesus was born for us and that he came to restore peace with you and mend the bond broken by sin. Move us to sing our carols and hymns not with passing pleasure but with the depth of praise for his extraordinary love.

Let our songs and hymns reflect our faith in the redemption gained by Christ.

Lead us to kneel at his manger with hearts of faith and to see there the God-man who takes away the sins of the world. Guide and guard us so that the happiness shared with family and friends does not delay or discourage our journey to his holy crib.

Make the birth of Christ our highest priority and deepest pleasure.

Fill us with an eager joy that moves us to share the good news with others, especially those who may have forgotten or dismissed the love of God in Christ. Give us faith-filled maturity to recognize that the best gift we can give to children is the story of Jesus who was born as a baby and died on a cross to save them for heaven.

Move us to tell the good news we have seen and heard.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

During this hectic holiday, provide us with quiet times to remember what the birth of Jesus really means for us and all people, that he came to free us from the evil forces that separated us from your love, that he lived and died to forgive our sins, and that he rose in triumph to prepare a place where we will live with you forever.

Move us to sing with hearts of faith, "Glory to God in the highest!" Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of 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.

Be seated

Joy to the World CW 353

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the
ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -
room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748 Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

Serving in Worship

Vocalists: Students of St. Lucas Lutheran Elementary School

Presiding Minister: Pastor Timothy Henning Organist: Coralee Henning

Candlelight Service: Tonight 10:00 pm **Christmas Day Worship:** Tomorrow 9:00 am

All Children in attendance this evening may receive a gift bag in the church entrance following the service.

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