

**AUGUSTANA
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

2011

THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH

Opening Hymn: O Come All Ye Faithful!

Oh, come, all ye faithful, triumphantly sing;
Come, see in the manger our Savior and King
To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord;
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

True Son of the Father, He comes from the skies;
To be born of a virgin He doth not despise.
To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord;
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Hark, hark, to the angels all singing in heaven,
"To God in the highest all glory be given!"
To Bethlehem hasten with joyful accord;
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

To Thee, then, O Jesus, this day of Thy birth
Be glory and honor through heaven and earth,
True Godhead incarnate, omnipotent Word!
Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Congregation: Amen.

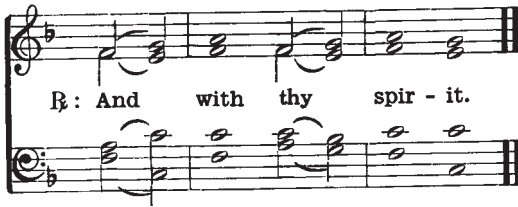
Pastor: Glory be to God on high!

Congregation:

All glory be to God on high,
Who hath our race befriended!
To us no harm shall now come nigh,
The strife at last is ended;
God showeth His good will to men,
And peace shall reign on earth again;
Oh, thank Him for His goodness!

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation:



Pastor: Collect for Christmas Night

O God, who hast made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant, we beseech Thee, that, as we have known on earth the mysteries of that Light, we may also come to the fullness of its joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

Congregation:



Hymn: Joy To The World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n 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...

Sermonette

Hymn: Let The Earth Now Praise The Lord

Let the earth now praise the Lord.
Who hath truly kept His Word
And the sinners' Help and Friend
Now at last to us doth send.

What the fathers most desired,
What the prophet's heart inspired,
What they longed for many a year,
Stands fulfilled in glory here.

Abram's promised great Reward,
Zion's Helper, Jacob's Lord,
Him of twofold race behold,
Truly came, as long foretold.

Welcome, O my Savior, now!
Hail! My Portion, Lord, art Thou.
Here, too, in my heart, I pray,
Oh, prepare Thyself a way!

King of Glory, enter in;
Cleanse it from the filth of sin,
As Thou hast so often done;
It belongs to Thee alone.

As Thy coming was in peace,
Quiet, full of gentleness,
Let the same mind dwell in me
That was ever found in Thee.

Comfort my desponding heart:
Thou my Strength and Refuge art.
I am weak, and cunningly
Satan lays his snares for me.

Bruise for me the Serpent's head,
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cleave to Thee in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.

And when Thou dost come again
As a glorious King to reign,
I with joy may see Thy face,
Freely ransomed by Thy grace.

THE PROPHECIES OF THE SAVIOR IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Introduction:

Our Lord God made the earth and sky and sea. He made the sun and the stars. He filled the earth with every living creature, and then He made man in His own image. And all was very good. But Satan, the old serpent, tempted our father Adam to doubt the word of God, and to break God's commandments, and so Adam brought sin into the world so that all of his children, ourselves included, are under the curse of sin. Yet from the very beginning, from before the world began, God prepared for us a Savior who would come and take away our sin. He prepared His people for the coming of His promised One through the words of promise which He gave to His prophets.

Recitations: The Prophecies of the Savior

Genesis 3:15, In the first Promise, in the Garden of Eden, God calls Jesus the Seed of the Woman: "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

Genesis 28:14, To Abraham, Isaac and Jacob the Lord God said: “In you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Deuteronomy 18:15, And the Lord God said through Moses: “The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear.”

Isaiah 7:14, In Israel’s darkest hour God sent Isaiah with a Word of hope: “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

Isaiah 9:6,7 Again the Word of the Lord came to Isaiah in joyful song: “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”

THE BIRTH OF THE SAVIOR

Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev’ry heart prepare a throne
And ev’ry voice a song.

He comes the pris’ners to release,
In Satan’s bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
T’ enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim
And heavn's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.

Recitation:

Galatians 4:4, "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."

Luke 2:1-5 "And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into 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 wife, who was with child."

Song by Children: O Little Town of Bethlehem (Congregation joins on verses 3 and 4. Acappella).

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 darkness shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, The angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing To God, the King,
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,
 The wondrous Gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
 The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
 But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
 The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
 Decend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
 Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
 The great glad tidings tell:
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
 Our Lord Immanuel!

Recitations:

Luke 2:6-14 “So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, 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, goodwill toward men!’”

Hymn: While Shepherds watched their flocks

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.
“Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled minds;
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind.

“To you, in David’s town, this day,
Is born of David’s line
A Savior, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:
The heavenly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swaddling-clothes
And in a manger laid.”

Thus spake the seraph, — and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels, praising God, and thus
Addressed their joyful song:
“All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from Heaven to men
Begin and never cease.”

Recitations:

Luke 2:15–19, “So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.”

Conclusion:

And as the shepherds made know abroad the Gospel told to them by the angels, so we too hear the Good News, and go and tell. Go now, and speak of these glad tidings that you have heard in word and song to your family and friends and neighbors. Be ready to give them the reason for your Christmas joy. For Christ the Lord has come, to take away your sins. Rejoice, that even as He humbled Himself to be born a child, so He will raise you up to become children of the Father in heaven!

Song by congregation: Spread, Oh, Spread Thou Mighty Word”

Spread, oh, spread, thou mighty Word
Spread the kingdom of the Lord,
Wheresoe'er His breath has giv'n
Life to being meant for heav'n.

Tell them how the Father's will
Made the world and keeps it still,
How His only Son He gave
Man from sin and death to save.

Tell of our Redeemer's love,
Who forever doth remove
By His holy sacrifice
All the guilt that on us lies.

Tell them of the Spirit giv'n
Now to guide us up to heav'n,
Strong and holy, just and true,
Working both to will and do.

Lord of Harvest, let there be
Joy and strength to work for Thee
Till the nations far and near
See Thy light and learn Thy fear.

Closing Prayer

O Lord God, Gracious Father, Who in the fullness of time didst make Thy Son to become man to take unto Himself our flesh and become our brother; we thank Thy truth and fatherly goodness for the gift of Him our

Saviour, Who by His birth delivered us from sin, death, Satan and hell; and we beseech Thee to keep us in true knowledge of Him our redeemer unto our end, so that, with all holy angels, we may rejoice in His birth, and see Him with Thee and the Holy Ghost in all His glory and majesty for ever and ever.

Congregation:



The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: Let us all with Gladsome Voice.

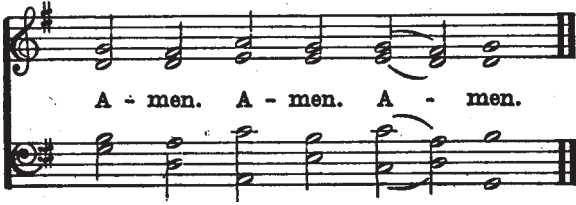
Let us all with gladsome voice
Praise the God of heaven,
Who to bid our hearts rejoice
His own Son hath given.

To this vale of tears He comes,
Here to serve in sadness,
That with Him in Heaven's fair homes
We main reign in gladness.

We are rich, for He was poor;
Is not this a wonder!
Therefore praise God evermore,
Here on earth and yonder.

O Lord Christ, our Saviour dear,
Be Thou ever near us.
Grant us now a glad New Year;
Amen, Jesus hear us.

The Benediction



A - men. A - men. A - men.

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It contains a melodic line with notes and rests. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. The lyrics 'A - men. A - men. A - men.' are centered between the two staves.