



in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

The word of the Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Lk 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia!

I bring you news of great joy:  
today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 2:1-14  
*Today a saviour has been born to you.*

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census - the first - took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and peace to men who enjoy his favour'.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
*(All bow)*

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead,



I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.  
Amen.

**OFFERTORY HYMN**

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

- 2. 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 stand by my side until morning is nigh.
- 3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

**COMMUNION HYMNS**

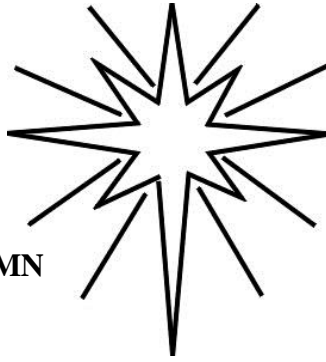
- 1. Oh holy night! The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!  
Oh night divine, Oh night when Christ was born;  
Oh night divine, Oh night, Oh night Divine.
- 2. Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here come the wise men from Orient lands.  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;  
In all our trials born to be our friend.  
He knows our need, He guardeth us from danger,  
Behold your King! Before the lowly bend  
Behold your King! Before the lowly bend.

- \*\*\*\*\*
- 1. 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.
  - 2. O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth;  
for Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.
  - 3. O holy Child of Bethlehem  
Descend to us, we pray  
Cast out our sin and enter in  
Be born to us today  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell  
O come to us, abide with us  
Our Lord Emmanuel.

- \*\*\*\*\*
- 1. Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright.  
'Round your virgin mother and child!  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
*Sleep in heavenly peace (x2)*
  - 2. Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories steam from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!"  
*Christ, the Saviour, is born! (x2)*
  - 3. Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light!  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
*Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth (x2)*

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem  
come and behold him, born the king of angels:  
*O come, let us adore him, (x3)*  
*Christ the Lord.*

2. *Adeste fideles, Laeti triumphantes;*  
*Venite, venite in Bethlehem;*  
*Natum videte, Regem Angelorum:*  
  
*Venite adoremus, (x3)*  
*Dominum!l*



**RECESSIONAL HYMN**

1. Joy to the world, the Lord has come.  
Let earth receive her king.  
Let every heart prepare Him room.  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth the Saviour reigns!  
Let men their songs employ.  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sin and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

**I. MARY'S BOY CHILD**

1. Long time ago in Bethlehem  
So the Holy Bible say,  
Mary's boy child Jesus Christ  
Was born on Christmas Day.  
  
*Hark, now hear the angels sing*  
*A new king's born today*  
*And man will live for ever more*  
*because of Christmas Day.*  
*Trumpets sound and angels sing*  
*Listen to what they say*  
*That man will live for ever more*  
*because of Christmas Day*

2. While shepherds watched their flocks by night  
They see a bright new shining star  
They hear a choir of angels sing  
Music seemed to come from afar.

**II. O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**

1. 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.

2. O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth;  
for Christ is born of Mary;  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.

3. How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
- but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him still,  
the dear Christ enters in.

**III. ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY**

1. Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a Mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that Mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

2. He came down to earth from heaven,  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor, and mean, and lowly,  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3. And through all his wondrous childhood  
he would honour and obey,  
love, and watch the lowly maiden  
in whose gentle arms he lay;  
Christian children, all must be  
mild, obedient, good as he.

**IV. ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH**

1. Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains;  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.  
*Gloria in excelsis deo (x2)*

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your rapturous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the new-born king.

## V. WE THREE KINGS

1. We three kings of Orient are;  
bearing gifts we traverse afar;  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

*O Star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light.*

2. Born a King on Bethlehem plain,  
gold I bring, to crown him again,  
King for ever, ceasing never,  
over us all to reign.



3. Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise His holy name.  
Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,  
His power and glory evermore proclaim. (x2)

## X. THE FIRST NOWELL

1. The First Noel the angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
In fields where they  
lay a-keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Noel (x4) Born is the King of Israel!*

2. They looked up and saw a star,  
shining in the east, beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.
3. And by the light of that same star,  
three wise men came from country far.  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.

## XI. LISTEN TO THE STORY

1. Listen to the story that we love to tell  
Story of the Holy One  
Tell you of the Saviour who we love so well  
Story of the Father's Son.

*Born as the baby in the midnight  
Bringing us eternal day  
Came like the dawning of the sunlight  
Came to take our sins away (x2)*

2. Though they wouldn't let him in the inn that night  
You can let him in your heart  
Wise men came to see him wearing silken robes  
You can some just as you are.
3. Angels told the story of a dying world  
Listen as we sing it to you  
Like the shepherd looking for a living Lord  
Seek and you will find him too.

## XII. GREAT DAY IN BETHLEHEM

*Great day in Bethlehem (x3)  
In a stable at the back of the Inn.*

1. The greatest story ever told  
Was told on Christmas Day  
Of two who came to Bethlehem  
They'd come a long long way  
Weary, tired, dusty and worn  
They knocked at every inn,  
There was a baby to be born,  
A new life to begin. And it's a...
2. Late that night, a Son was born  
A Son who was to be  
The Way for men to find the Truth  
A light for them to see  
Angels cried 'O Glory be'  
Hosanna let us sing  
Peace on earth, goodwill to men  
Today is born a King. And it's a....

## XIII. GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

*Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere,  
go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born*

1. While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er wandering flocks by night,  
behold from out of heaven  
there shone a holy light
2. And lo, when they had seen it,  
they all bowed down and prayed;  
they travelled on together  
to where the Babe was laid.
3. When I was a seeker,  
I sought both night and day;  
I asked my Lord to help me  
and he showed me the way

## VI. WHAT CHILD IS THIS

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Come greet the infant Lord  
The babe, the son of Mary.
2. Why lies he in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you:  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh  
The babe, the son of Mary.

## VII. WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
all seated on the ground,  
the Angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.
2. "Fear not!" said he, for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind.  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and all mankind.
3. "To you, in David's town, this day  
is born of David's line  
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,  
and this shall be the sign:

## VIII. IT CAME UPON MIDNIGHT CLEAR

1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth,  
To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men  
From heaven's all gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing.
2. Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long;  
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong;  
And man, at war with man, hears not  
The love song which they bring:  
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,  
And hear the angels sing.

## IX. O HOLY NIGHT

1. Oh holy night! The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appear'd and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!  
Oh night divine, Oh night when Christ was born;  
Oh night divine, Oh night, Oh night Divine.
2. Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here come the wise men from Orient lands.  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;  
In all our trials born to be our friend.  
He knows our need, He guardeth us from danger,  
Behold your King! Before the lowly bend. (x2)