

The Preachers of Christmas: Angels, Shepherds, Lancelot Andrewes, You



Christmas Day—December 25, 2021

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Christmas Refrains Liturgy

Call to Worship

Psalm 51:15, liturgical text

P: O Lord, open my lips,

C: *and my mouth shall declare Your praise.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia!

P: Give glory to God, our light and our life.

C: *Oh, come, let us worship Him.*

Opening Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379, sts. 1-2



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son 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!

Acknowledgments

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires.
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Introit (Entrance Verses)

Psalm 98:1-4; antiphons (repeated verses): Psalm 98:1 & Isaiah 9:6

P: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

C: **Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!**
Oh, sing a new song!

P: His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.
The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

C: **Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!**
Oh, sing a new song!

Opening Hymn (continued)

LSB 379, sts. 3-4



3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry giv'n!



Glo - ry to God 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!

Introit (continued)

P: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

C: *Oh sing to the LORD a new song:*

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Oh, sing a new song!***

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *And also with you.*

P: Let us pray. O Holy God, Father Most Holy, at the Holy Nativity of Your Son, the angels sang, "Peace to God's people on earth"; strengthen us with Your peace and justice. And shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to announce this gospel of Christ's redemption. In His Name, we pray.

C: *Amen.*

Confession of Sins

P: Your prayer has been answered. Jesus has indeed come to set us free from our sins. So on this morning as we praise the Father for sending His Son, we are bold and confident to approach the Lord, admitting our sin, and clinging to His forgiveness... Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: *O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Absolution (Forgiveness)

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10 (ESV)

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”

⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.



from LSB 933 st. 1

P My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es—



C Sing the great - ness of the Lord!



Anthem**Once in Royal David's City****Adult Choir**

- Use the anthem's music and words to help you to meditate on God's Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

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.

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.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above,
He shall lead His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Once in royal David's city, once in royal David's city,
Once in royal David's city He was born!

Psalm Reading

Psalm 148 (ESV)

¹Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

²Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his [heavenly armies]!

³Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!

⁴Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

⁵Let them praise the name of the LORD!

For he commanded and they were created.

⁶And he established them forever and ever;
he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

⁷Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps,

⁸fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!

⁹Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

¹⁰Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!

¹¹Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

¹²Young men and maidens together, old men and children!

¹³Let them praise the name of the LORD,

for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.

¹⁴Like a bull with mighty horns, the Lord protects his faithful nation Israel,
for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the LORD!

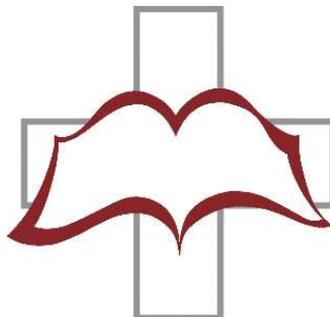


from LSB 933 st. 1

P My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es—



C Sing the great - ness of the Lord!



The 1st Part of the Christmas Gospel

Luke 2:1-14 (ESV)

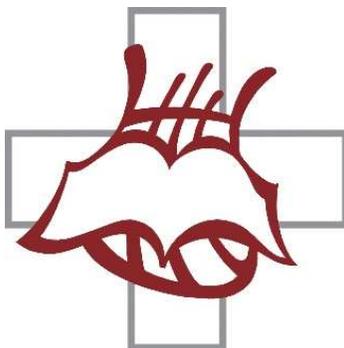
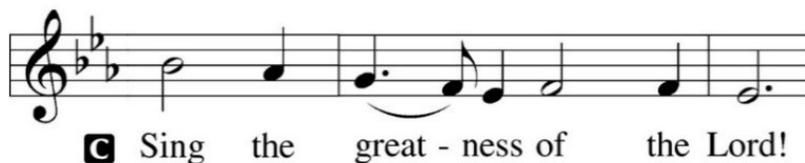
¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"



from LSB 933 st. 1



Praise for the Word

Rejoice, Rejoice This Happy Morn

LSB 391

Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce this hap - py morn, A Sav - ior un -
 to us is born, The Christ, the Lord of glo - ry!
 His low - ly birth in Beth - le - hem The an - gels from
 on high pro - claim And sing re - demp - tion's sto - ry!
 My soul, ex - tol God's great fa - vor; Bless Him ev - er
 For sal - va - tion; Give Him praise and ad - o - ra - tion!

The 2nd Part of the Christmas Gospel

Luke 2:1-14 (ESV)

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

P My soul re - joi - ces, My spir - it voic - es—
C Sing the great - ness of the Lord!

from LSB 933 st. 1



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-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteous-ness!



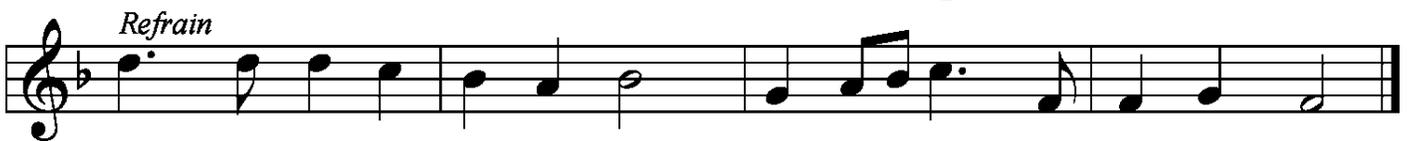
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the 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!"

Versicles

Isaiah 9:2a; John 1:15; Isaiah 9:2b; John 1:14b, Isaiah 9:6; John 1:14

P: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

C: ***The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.***

P: On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

C: ***We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son who came from the Father.***

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: ***In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.***

Sermon

"Lancelot Andrewes: 1618"

Luke 2:12-14

Anthem**Good News! Everybody Listen!****Adult Choir**

Good news, ev'rybody listen! God news, ev'rybody listen!
Good news, hear the good news that Jesus Christ is born.
Sing glory, good news shout it from the mountains.
Good news, sing it in the valleys.
Good news, share the good news that Jesus Christ is born.
Angels announce His birth in Bethlehem.
A star proclaims to all the world's true Light.
The shepherds run to see the newborn King,
To worship Him this holy day of days.
Good news, listen children. Good news, listen children. Christ is born.
Good news, glory hallelujah! Good news, glory hallelujah! Jesus Christ is born.
Oh, Jesus Christ the Lord is born.

Prayers We offer these prayers to God. Pastor will add any immediate thanksgivings and needs.

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, your Son our Savior, was born in human flesh. Renew Your Church as the Body of Christ. Holy God,

C: hear our prayer.

P: There was no room for Your Son in the inn. Protect with Your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Holy God,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Mary, in the pain of labor, brought Your Son to birth. Hold in your hand [... and] all who are in pain or distress. Holy God,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Your Christ, Messiah, our Lord, came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to [... and] all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Holy God,

C: hear our prayer.

P: The angels sang, "Peace to God's people on earth." Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in [... and in] all the world. Holy God,

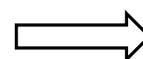
C: hear our prayer.

P: The shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption. Holy God,

C: hear our prayer.

P: In the birth of Your Son in the flesh, Heaven has come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand [... and] all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom. Holy God,

C: hear our prayer.



P: As Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth, bless their keeping of the Christmastide, guarding and keeping those who must keep their celebrations secret for fear of persecution. Holy God,

C: *hear our prayer.*

P: Almighty and everlasting God, You caused Your only-begotten Son to be born of the blessed virgin Mary for our salvation. Bless our keeping of this Christmastide, remembering the wonders of that sacred birth, so that we may ponder and adore the mystery of His holy incarnation and may joyfully partake in His divine grace unto life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *Amen.*

Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.—And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.—And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Communion Distribution

- *Ushers on either side will indicate when it is your time to approach one of the railings on your side of the Gym.*
- *Family members may be at the same railing.*
- *Individuals commune at their own railing.*
- *Pastor will give you the bread, gently dropping it into your outstretched hand.*
- *The Elder will bring you the tray and you may take an individual cup of wine. The purple cups on the inside are alcohol removed wine.*
- *After you have received the bread and wine you may return to your seat.*

Preparation for the Lord's Supper

All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed are invited to receive Communion with us if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ, and the wine is the blood of Christ, truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.



If this is a new teaching to you, or if this is different than you believe, we ask that you wait to commune until we've had a further chance to talk. We invite those who are not communing to come to the rail, cross your arms, and receive a blessing from the Lord.

Preface Verses

Let All Together Praise Our God

LSB 389 sts. 1, 4

1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore His
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, Puts on our
glo - rious throne; To - day He o - pens heav'n a - gain To
hu - man frame, And in re - turn gives us His realm, His
give us His own Son, To give us His own Son.
glo - ry, and His name, His glo - ry, and His name.

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The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

All: 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.

Words of Institution

Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: *And also with you.*

(We greet one another in peace saying “God’s peace” or “The Lord be with you.”)

Carols During Distribution

Angels from the Realms of Glory

LSB 367



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,



all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
 beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
 hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
 Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
 Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
 Ye have seen His na - tal star.
 In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
 To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;



Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Go Tell It On the Mountain

LSB 382

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch - ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain



Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.
 Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Common Dismissal

P: Now may this true body and true blood of our Lord...

C: Amen.

Prayer of Thanks

P: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



Benediction



from LSB 933 st. 1

P My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es—



C Sing the great - ness of the Lord!

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



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.

Announcements