

The Recessional Hymn: “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

(1 - Children; 2,3 - Congregation)

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;

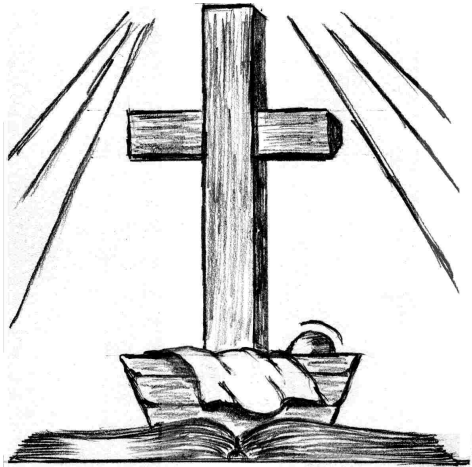
Refrain

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.

Soli Deo Gloria!



Children's Christmas Program

“The Christmas Story”

21 December Anno ✝ Domini 2008



Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Welcome

Welcome to our 2008 Children's Christmas Program. We are delighted that you have come to support the children of Peace, as they have worked hard in their preparation to share the Christmas story with you, and we are confident that you will enjoy their presentation. For your convenience, the entire program is included in this bulletin, with the exception of the script, so that you will not need a hymnal to follow along and participate. Please be sure to take note of the directions given above each musical selection. Thanks again for coming out to support our children!

"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.'" (Matt. 19:14)

Hymn: "The Star Proclaims the King Is Here"

(1,2,3,5 - Congregation; 4 - Children)

1 The star pro - claims the King is here; But, Her - od,
2 The east - ern sa - ges saw from far And fol - lowed
3 With - in the Jor - dan's sa - cred flood The heav'n - ly
4 And oh, what mir - a - cle di - vine, When wa - ter
△ 5 For this Thy glad e - piph - a - ny All glo - ry,

why this sense - less fear? For He who of - fers heav'n - ly
on His guid - ing star; And, led by light, to light they
Lamb in meek - ness stood That He, of whom no sin was
red - dened in - to wine! He spoke the word, and forth it
Je - sus, be to Thee, Whom with the Fa - ther we a -

birth Seeks not the king - doms of this earth.
trod And by their gifts con - fessed their God.
known, Might cleanse His peo - ple from their own.
flowed In streams that na - ture ne'er be - stowed.
dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

The Concluding Prayer and Benediction

P Let us pray: Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the pure Virgin. Grant Your people grace to put away fleshly lusts, that they may be ready for Your visitation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.



Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

(1,4 - Children; 2,3 - Congregation)



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Scene 8: The Visit of the Wise Men

(After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men from the east, being led by a star in the sky, came to Jerusalem to find out where the king of the Jews had been born. When the evil King Herod heard about this, he found out from the chief priests and scribes that the prophecy stated that Bethlehem would be the place, and he summoned the wise men and told them to find the Child and to report back to him, so that he, too, could go and worship Him. The wise men found Jesus in Bethlehem, just as the prophecy had stated, and worshipped Him, presenting Him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, they departed and went back to their home country, avoiding Herod, for they knew that he was evil.)



Cast of Characters

(In order of appearance)

Narrator:	Sarah Messer
Gabriel:	Natalie Penzien
Zechariah:	Morgan Johnson
Mary:	Sierra Luplow
Elizabeth:	Myka Luplow
Crowd:	Pastor, Teachers
Joseph:	Tyrel Harwager
Angel #1:	Jerrick Brecht
Angel #2:	Paige Harwager
Shepherd:	Aaron Messer
Wise Man #1:	John Rodriguez
Wise Man #2:	Pastor Messer
Wise Man #3:	Zane Luplow
King Herod:	B.J. Henry

In Addition to the Cast . . .

Soloists:	Myka Luplow Sarah Messer Jordan Henry
Duets:	Sierra Luplow/Natalie Penzien Jordan Henry/Sarah Messer
Organist:	Beth Brostrom
Minister:	Rev. Thomas C. Messer
Teachers:	Sharyn Greening, Andrea Elliott Sarah Messer, Jon Penzien
Sunday School Choir:	All Sunday School children (directed by Beth Brostrom)

This year's Children's Christmas Program was created and designed by Pastor Messer. The way in which the musical selections will be sung was arranged by Beth Brostrom. Special thanks to Sharyn Greening and Andrea Elliott for helping to prepare the children.

The Ringing of the Bells

(The congregation stands at the Ringing of the Bells and faces the processional cross. It is customary to continue facing the cross as it is processed in, and to bow your head and make the sign of the cross in reverence and admiration to the Lord as it passes your pew. The same applies for the recession as Service concludes.)

The Processional Hymn: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

(1 - Soloist Myka Luplow; 2, 4, 5, 7 - Congregation; 3, 6 - Children)



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest all things
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,
Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the Law
tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save,
heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!
And teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!
In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re - joice! Re - joice!
And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
And close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice!



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh; In one the hearts of all mankind;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Refrain Refrain



Hymn: “Angels We Have Heard on High”

(Sung by Congregation)



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Scene 7: The Shepherds Visit the Christ Child

(After the angels depart from them, the shepherds go at once to find the Savior the Lord had made known to them by the angels' message. When they find the place where the Christ Child is, everything is just as the angels had told them. The shepherds share their story with Mary and Joseph, and, from that day forward, with everyone who would listen, and all marvel at their saying. After their visit, the shepherds return to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen.)



Hymn: “Away in a Manger”

(Sung by the Children)

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 Thee to stay

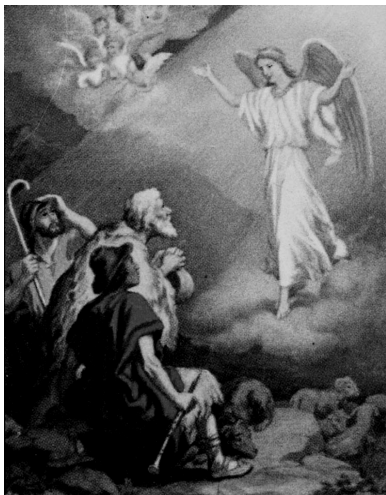
The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky — looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Scene 6: The Shepherds and the Angels

(In the same region where Mary gives birth to Jesus, there are shepherds working out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. Suddenly, an angel appears to them and tells them that a Savior has been born to them who is Christ the Lord, and informs them of where they can find Him. Then, a multitude of the heavenly host joins the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”)



The Invocation and Opening Versicles

- P** In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.
P Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.
C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.
P In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.
C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.
P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
C This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Be seated

Hymn of Preparation: “What Hope! An Eden Prophesied”

(1 - Soloist Sarah Messer; 2 - Children; 3,4 - Congregation)

1 What hope! An E - den proph - e - sied Where tame live with the wild;
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da - vid's line,
3 As ban - ner of God's love un - furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;

The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!
A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

Scene 1: The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

(The angel Gabriel visits the priest named Zechariah and announces to him that his wife, Elizabeth, shall conceive and bear a son, whose name shall be John, and who will prepare the way for the Lord to come. Zechariah finds this hard to believe, since he is an old man and his wife is beyond the age of childbearing, and, because of his unbelief, Zechariah is struck mute until the day his son is born.)



Hymn: "Prepare the Royal Highway"

(Sung by congregation)



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
2 God's peo-ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom-ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch-es strew be-fore Him! Spread gar-ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom-ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands, bow down be-fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
So let your praise be sound-ing For kind-ness so a - bound-ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Scene 2: The Annunciation

(The angel Gabriel visits the virgin Mary, announcing to her that she will conceive a Son by the Holy Spirit, whose name shall be Jesus, and that He will be great and called the Son of the Most High. Gabriel also informs Mary that her cousin, Elizabeth, has conceived a son in her old age, and is already in her sixth month of pregnancy. Mary believes all that Gabriel tells her, saying, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.")



the dawn from on high shall break up - on us



to shine on those who dwell in dark-ness and the shad-ow of death



and to guide our feet in - to the way of peace.



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the



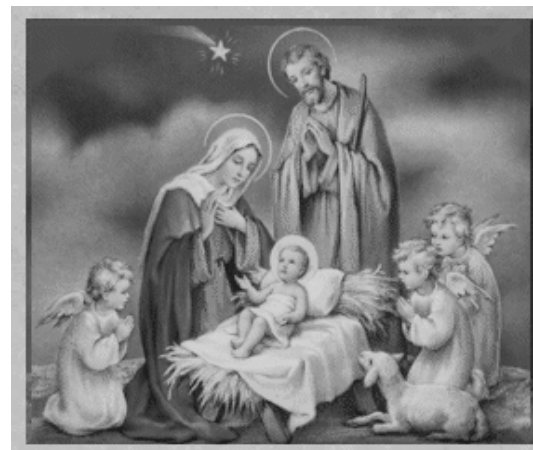
Ho - ly Spir - it; as it was in the be - gin - ning,



is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Scene 5: The Birth of Our Savior, Jesus Christ

(According to the census issued by Caesar Augustus, and in order to fulfill prophecy, Joseph and Mary travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. While there, the time comes for Mary to give birth, but there is no room for them in the Inn. So, it happens that the Lord of the universe is born in a stable, amidst the animals, and placed in a manger, a feeding trough. Miracle of miracles, the Baby born to Mary, while seemingly helpless, holds the entire creation in the palms of His little hands.)



that He would save us from our en - e - mies, from the hands of all who

hate us. He prom - ised to show mer - cy to our fa - thers

and to re - mem - ber His ho - ly cov - e - nant.

This was the oath He swore to our fa - ther A - bra - ham:

to set us free from the hands of our en - e - mies,

free to wor - ship Him with - out fear, ho - ly and

right - eous in His sight all the days of our life.

L You, my child, shall be called the proph - et of the Most High,

for you will go be - fore the Lord to pre - pare His way,

to give His peo - ple knowl - edge of sal - va - tion by the for - give - ness

of their sins. In the ten - der com - pas - sion of our God,

Hymn: "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

(1 - Soloist Jordan Henry; 2,4 - Congregation; 3 - Children)

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

Scene 3: The Visitation

(Mary, now pregnant with the Son of God, goes with haste to visit her cousin, Elizabeth. Upon her arrival, Elizabeth feels her son leap in her womb. Then, filled with the Holy Spirit, she praises Mary, saying, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" She goes on to tell Mary how her son leaped in her womb, and that Mary was blessed for believing God's Word, to which Mary responds with what has become known in our liturgy as the Magnificat.)



Hymn: “My Soul Rejoices” ~ *Mary’s Song (Magnificat)*

(Duet: Sierra Luplow and Natalie Penzien)

1 My soul re - joice - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the

great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He

fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion

bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the

ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the

sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br’ham’s off - spring

Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!



Scene 4: The Birth of John the Baptist

(Elizabeth gives birth to her son, and on the eighth day, she and Zechariah take their son to be circumcised. Family and friends expect them to name him after Zechariah, but Elizabeth tells them that he shall be called John. When family and friends protest, Zechariah asks for a writing tablet and writes upon it, “His name is John!” And, immediately, his mouth is opened and his tongue loosed, and he speaks, blessing God. This leads all who witnessed it to wonder in amazement at what the birth of this son would mean, but Zechariah breaks into song, singing what has become known in our liturgy as the Benedictus.)



The Benedictus ~ *Song of Zechariah*

(Duet: Jordan Henry and Sarah Messer)

Bless - ed be the Lord, the God of Is - ra - el;

He has come to His peo - ple and re - deemed them.

He has raised up for us a might - y Sav - ior,

born of the house of His ser - vant Da - vid.

Through His ho - ly proph - ets He prom - ised of old