

The Gift of God

God Gives Heaven's Best Gift in Earth's Unlikeliest Place

Hymn*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* CW 327

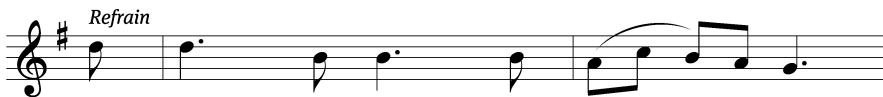
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, O Root of Jes - se, free your own from
 3 O come, O Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 4 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen



cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your
 by your draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y
 wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that



ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
 clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.



Refrain
 Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Tune: French, 15th cent., alt Text and tune: Public domain

Stand**Christmas Responses**

M: The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us.

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

M: The people living in darkness have seen a great light.

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



**MORRISON
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Wisconsin Evangelical
 Lutheran Synod

Our mission is to

Glorify God

as we

Gather

around the Gospel

to help people

Grow

in the **Gospel**

and

Go

with the **Gospel**

Welcome!

We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

M: 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, full of grace and truth.

M: 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.

M: Christ is born! Salvation has appeared!

C: Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!

C: (sung) Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,

And see what in the manger lies.

Who is this child, so young and fair?

It is the Christchild lying there.

Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,

Through whom the sinful world is blest!

You came to share my misery,

That you might share your joy with me.

Prayer of the Day

M: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated

Reading:

1 John 4:9-14

⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. (NIV)

Hymn

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt CW 345



1 Where shep-herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,
 2 In that un - like - ly place I find him as they said:
 3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,
 4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange - ly stirred;
 sweet new - born babe, how frail! And in a man - ger bed:
 his proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:
 its way in - to my heart— un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



but there is room and wel - come there for me,
 a still, small voice to cry one day for me,
 a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
 to die, to live, and not a - lone for me,



but there is room and wel - come there for me.
 a still, small voice to cry one day for me.
 a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.
 to die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1929–2021

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Reading:

Luke 2:1-7

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

⁴ 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. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ 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. (NIV)

Solo*O Holy Night***Reading:**

Luke 2:8-20

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ 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.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. (NIV)

Devotion

Hymn

Away in a Manger CW 341



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 you 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 bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is night.
and take us to heav - en to live with you there.

Text (sts. 1-2): The Myrtle, Boston, 1884; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, Louisville, 1892, alt.

Tune: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838-1921

Text and tune: Public domain

Offering

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Stand

Prayer

M: Oh gracious and almighty Father, we praise you that you kept your ancient promises by sending your everlasting Son in human flesh.

C: **On this holy night, receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.**

M: You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your concern for all, the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by your ever-seeking eyes. No one is excluded from your upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort and help of your outstretched hand.

C: Bless us with a childlike faith in the divine assurance that you love and care for us always.

M: You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of death, and the torment of hell. He took our place. He was born under the law to set us free. He became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order that we might live eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our hearts, and fill us with an eager desire to spread the Word concerning what we have heard tonight.

C: May all who hear the message, in every nation under heaven, be amazed and believe what is told them about the child.

M: You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all darkness that would rob us of the full life that you intend for us. May the “joy that will be for all people” be our joy. May the “peace on earth to all on whom his favor rests” be our peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.

C: For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord. Amen.

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Lord's Prayer

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.

Be seated

Distribution of the Candles

The pastor lights a candle from the altar candles; the ushers light their candles from the pastor's candle. The ushers then light the candle of the person nearest to the aisle.

Lighted candles should not be tipped to light another. Tip the unlighted candle to light it from a lighted candle. This will avoid dripping wax on yourself, the pew, or the floor.

1. **Into darkness, into shadows, into gloom so dark and deep,
Came the Son of God the Father; as a babe we watch him sleep.
Baby Jesus, Son of heaven, shine your love so true!
Here in the dark the only light is you.**
2. **Into darkness, into shadows, to the world the Savior came.
Hearts were waiting on the promise life would never be the same.
Light would shine in hearts so blinded; love would come to be.
Here in the dark the Baby Jesus see.**
3. **Brightened darkness, fleeing shadows greet the dawning of the day!
Watch in wonder, watch in silence; Jesus came to be the way.
Hear the promise of the ages; go to see the stall!
Here in the dark he came to save us all.**

M: Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

C: **See darkness covers the earth, and thick darkness is over the peoples.**

M: But the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

C: **Nations will come to the light, and kings to the brightness of the dawn.**

M: Go in peace and share the good news – A Savior is born. He is Christ the Lord.

C: **Amen.**



Closing Hymn

Silent Night CW 337



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

The candles are extinguished. Silence for meditation.

