



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.

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
where like stars His children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

Minister: The Lord be with you

Response: And also with you

Who is Jesus?

He is God in skin

Who is Jesus?

He is God, making himself known

Who is Jesus?

He is God with us

Who is Jesus?

He is God, dealing with our sin

Who is Jesus?

He is God, Saviour of the world!

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,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of light,
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten not created;

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above,
Glory to God, in the highest;

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

Latin probably by JF Wade c1743
(tr. F. Oakeley 1841 and others)

Prayer of preparation

Let us pray

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no
secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of
our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy
Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and
worthily magnify your holy name, through
Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Christ the grace of God has dawned upon
the world. Let us bring our weaknesses and
infirmities to him, confessing our sins in
penitence and faith.

Merciful God, our maker and our judge, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed and in what we have failed to do: we have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves; we repent, and are sorry for all our sins. Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith: pardon you and set you free from all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We say the Gloria together

Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the holy One: you alone are the Lord; you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Special prayer for use on Christmas Day

Almighty God, you have given us your only Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: grant that we, being born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word

The Old Testament reading:

Isaiah 9:6-7

This is the word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God

Angels, from the realms of glory,

Wing your flight o'er all the earth;

Ye who sang creation's story

Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Gloria in excelsis deo

Gloria in excelsis deo

Shepherds in the fields abiding,

Watching o'er your flocks by night,

God with us is now residing;

Yonder shines the infant Light:

Gloria, etc.

Sages, leave your contemplations;

Brighter visions beam afar;

Seek the great Desire of nations;

Ye have seen His natal star:

Gloria etc.

Though an Infant now we view Him,

He shall fill His Father's throne,

Gather all the nations to Him;

Every knee shall then bow down:

Gloria, etc.

The Gospel: Luke 2:8-20

Response at the announcement:

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

At the conclusion:

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

The Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our
Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under
Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was
buried; he descended to the dead. On the
third day he rose from the dead; he
ascended into heaven, and is seated at the
right hand of the Father; 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 the life everlasting. Amen.**

Who is Jesus?

God the Saviour of the world

Time of prayer

Concluding: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed
be your name. Your kingdom come, your
will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us
today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us
from evil. For the kingdom, the power and
the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.**

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 to-night.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth

For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.

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,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in;
Be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel. P Brooks 1868

The Great Thanksgiving

Hear the words of assurance for those who
truly turn to Christ:

I bring you good news that will cause great
joy for all the people. Today in the town of
David a Savior has been born to you; he is
the Messiah, the Lord Luke 2

Therefore: Lift up your hearts

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give our thanks and praise

All glory and honour be yours always and
everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.
We praise you because you gave your only
Son Jesus Christ to be born for us. By the
power of the Holy Spirit he was made man
and was born of the virgin Mary his mother;
being himself without sin, to make us clean
from all sin. By his death on the cross and
rising to new life he offered the one true
sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal
deliverance for his people.

Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

And now, Father, we pray that we who receive these your gifts of bread and wine according to our Saviour's word may be partakers of his body and blood.

For on the night he was betrayed he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you his Almighty Father, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me'.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

We offer our prayer and praise, Father, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

If you are visiting with us, you are welcome to share in the Lord's Supper.

Following the communion

God of heaven, dwelling among us, we thank you for feeding us with the holy food of word and sacrament. By your grace, keep us ever faithful to your Word-made-flesh that as his body in the world, we may bring your presence to all people.

Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send

us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as Man with us to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel! Hark!

Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth
Born to give us second birth.

Hark!

C. Wesley 1739

The Benediction

May Christ the Son of God gladden your hearts by his coming to dwell among us and bring you his peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.