



## **Jesus Christ, yesterday, today, and forever.**

*O vis aeternitatis, quae Omnia ordinasti in corde tuo,  
Per Verbum tuum Omnia create sunt, sicut voluisti,  
Et ipsum Verbum tuum induit carnem  
In formatione illa, quaeeducta ese de Adam.*

**O power beyond all season, who arrayed all that is in your heart,  
through your Word all that is was brought to be, just as you desired,  
and your very Word put on the garment of flesh  
in that form which was drawn forth from Adam.**


*Corde natus ex parentis  
ante mundi exordium  
A et O cognominatus  
ipse fons et clausula.  
Omnium quae sunt fuerunt,  
quaeque post futura sunt.  
secula et seculorum. Amen.*

**Of the Father's love begotten  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore.**

***To everything there is a season  
and a time for every purpose  
under heaven.***

*Under heaven  
under the stars of night  
under the swirling clouds  
of the Orion nebula  
where even now  
new stars are coming  
to birth.  
There is a movement  
to this universe,  
a flow,  
a becoming,  
the night sky tonight  
will not be  
exactly the same night sky  
as yesterday.*

*There is a movement  
to this life,  
a flow,  
a becoming.  
The interstellar clouds  
swirl and meander  
around each other  
like a river  
through a canyon  
newness around each bend  
the river changing  
the canyon becoming  
new stars forming.  
Our lives meander  
and crash  
through the stardust  
and take on glory.  
There is a movement to this life,  
a flow,  
a becoming,  
a new heaven,  
a new earth.*



***I love Jesus, who said to us:  
Heaven and earth will pass away.  
When heaven and earth have passed away,  
My words will still remain.  
What was your word, Jesus?  
Love? Forgiveness? Affection?  
All your words were  
One word: Wakeup.***

**Wake, awake, for night is flying:  
The watchmen on the heights are crying,  
Awake, Jerusalem, arise!**


**Midnight's solemn hour is tolling,  
His chariot wheels are nearer rolling;  
He comes; prepare ye virgins wise.**

**Rise up; with willing feet,  
Go forth the Bridegroom meet,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.**

**Bear through the night your well-trim'd light,  
Speed forth to join the marriage rite.  
Hear Thy praise, O Lord, ascending  
From tongues of men and angels  
Blending with harps and lute and psaltery.**

**By Thy pearly gates in wonder  
We stand, and swell the voice of thunder,  
In bursts of choral melody:  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.**

**No vision ever brought,  
No ear hath ever caught,  
Such bliss and joy:  
We raise the song, we swell the throng,  
To praise Thee ages all along.  
Hallelujah, to praise Thee ages all along.**



*O Mary, God sang,  
let me chant to you  
a truth before time.*

*O Mary,  
let me sing into your heart  
a truth before space:*

*there  
is  
no  
space  
where  
I  
am  
not.*

*O Mary, God sang,  
life  
is  
holy.*

*(Call and answer:  
Mary's face shone.)*

Over the hills young Mary hastes  
To see her kin Elizabeth.  
As Mary greets her, hands upraised,  
Elizabeth sings Mary's praise  
And calls her Mother of the Lord.  
Then Mary's heart joyfully soared:  
My soul proclaims God's greatness;  
My spirit now rejoices;  
He is my Savior and my God;  
He evermore, is merciful.

Why sit we idly then about?  
Let us go also to the mount  
So that our greeting may impart  
The Spirit's entrance to each heart,  
Whereby the heart glad songs shall raise  
And lips exult in faithful praise:  
My soul proclaims God's greatness;  
My spirit now rejoices;  
He is my Savior and my God;  
He evermore, is merciful.

*[Mary's] consent opens the door  
of created nature, of time, of history,  
to the Word of God...  
The shadows fall. The stars appear.  
The birds begin to sleep.  
Night embraces the silent half of earth.  
A vagrant, a destitute wanderer with dusty feet,  
finds his way down a new road.*

*A homeless God, lost in the night,  
without papers, without identification,  
without even a number,  
a frail expendable exile  
lies down in desolation  
under the sweet stars of the world  
and entrusts Himself to sleep.*

**Salvation is created,  
In midst of the earth, O God.  
Alleluia.**

*Should you hear them singing among stars  
or whispering secrets of a wiser world,  
do not imagine ardent, fledgling children;  
they are intelligences old as sunrise  
that never learnt right from left, before from after,  
knowing but one direction, into God,  
but one duration, now.*

*Their melody strides not from bar to bar,  
but, like a painting, hangs there entire,  
one chord of limitless communication.  
You have heard it in the rhythm of the hills,  
the spiralling turn of a dance, the fall of words,  
the touch of fingers at the rare, right moment,  
and these were holy, holy.*

**ALL SING** (*stand at the end  
of the organ introduction*)

**Hark the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.”  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king!”**

**Christ, by highest heav’n adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king!”**

**Hail the heav’n-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 each child of earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king!”**

***There were shepherds living in the fields,  
keeping watch over their flocks by night.  
Then an angel of the Lord stood before them,  
and they were terrified.***

***But the angel said to them: “Do not be afraid:  
for behold, I am bringing you  
good news of great joy.  
To you is born this day in the city of David  
a Savior, who is the Christ the Lord.”***

***And suddenly there was with the angel,  
a multitude of the heav’nly host.***

***The song of angels...***

**Noel! Sing Gloria!**

**All my heart again rejoices  
As I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices:  
"Christ is born" their choirs are singing,  
Till the air ev'rywhere  
Now with joy is ringing**

**Come, then, let us hasten yonder:  
Here let all great and small, kneel in awe and wonder.  
Love him who with love is yearning,  
Hail the star that from far  
Bright with hope is burning!**

**Noel! Sing Gloria!**

**ALL SING**

**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, good will to all, from heav'n's all gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

***Gloria in excelsis Deo***

***Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.***

**Glory to God in the highest  
and peace to God's people on earth.**

## **ALL SING**

**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;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing:  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely,  
Love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and angels gave the sign.  
Love shall be our token,  
Love be yours and mine.  
Love to God and all souls.  
Star and angels gave the sign.  
Worship we the Godhead,  
Love incarnate  
Love divine,  
Worship we our Jesus,  
Born that love, be yours and mine.**

**Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
Oh, yes the Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
And they said that his name was Jesus.**

**He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.**

**Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
Oh, yes the angels sang when the baby born,  
And proclaim him the Savior Jesus.**

**He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.**

**Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
Oh, yes the Wise Men saw where the baby was born  
And they knew that his name was Jesus.**

**He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.**

**Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
Oh yes the Virgin Mary had a baby boy!  
Alleluia!**



How far is it to Bethlehem?  
Not very far.  
Shall we find the stable room  
lit by a star?  
Can we see the little child,  
is he within?  
If we lift the wooden latch  
may we go in?

May we stroke the creatures there,  
ox, ass or sheep?  
May we peep like them and see  
Jesus asleep?  
If we touch his tiny hand  
will he awake?  
Will he know we've come so far  
just for his sake?

Great kings and precious gifts,  
and we have naught,  
Little smiles and little tears are  
all we have brought.  
For all weary children  
Mary must weep.  
Here on his bed of straw  
sleep, children, sleep.

God in his mother's arms,  
babes in the byre,  
Sleep, as they sleep who find  
their heart's desire.

**ALL SING**

**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;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!**

Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,  
And come your lowly bed to see;  
Enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,  
That we the way to you may find.

With songs we hasten you to greet,  
And kiss the ground before your feet.  
Oh blessed hour, oh, sweetest night  
That gave you birth, our souls delight.

Oh draw us wholly to you, Lord,  
And to us all your grace accord;  
True faith and love to us impart,  
That we may hold you in our heart.


**Little Lamb, who made thee?  
Dost thou know who made thee?**

Gave thee life, and bid thee feed  
By the stream and o'er the mead;  
Gave thee clothing of delight,  
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;  
Gave thee such a tender voice,  
Making all the vales rejoice?

Little Lamb, who made thee?  
Dost thou know who made thee?

Little Lamb I'll tell thee,  
Little Lamb, I'll tell thee:  
He is called by thy name,  
For he calls himself a Lamb.  
He is meek and he is mild;  
He became a little child.  
I a child, and thou a lamb,  
We are called by his name.

Little Lamb, God bless thee!  
Little Lamb, God bless thee!



Sleep, little Jesus, my Diadem fairest;  
Sleep, holy Child, thou all pearls the rarest.  
Lullaby, Jesus Child, sweet be thy sleeping;  
Mary is tenderly watch o'er thee keeping.

Sleep, little Jesus, around thee will hover.  
Angels to guard thee, the world's fairest flower.  
Lullaby, Jesus Child, sweet be thy sleeping;  
Mary is tenderly watch o'er thee keeping.

Lullaby, Jesus, this world's bright adorning,  
Fairer than stars and the sun of the morning.  
Lullaby, Jesus Child, sweet be thy sleeping;  
Mary is tenderly watch o'er thee keeping.

**ALL SING**

**Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright, round yon  
virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.**

*Many ages after the world was created,  
when God, in the beginning, formed the  
heavens and the earth; long after the great Flood;*

*some two thousand years after the birth of Abraham;  
fifteen centuries after Moses and the passing over of Israel;*

*a thousand years after the anointing of David as king;  
in the sixty-fifth week as Daniel's prophecy takes note;*

*in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad,  
the seven hundred and fifty-second year from  
the founding of the city of Rome;  
the forty-second year of Octavian Augustus' rule;*

*in the sixth age of the world, all the earth being at peace,  
Jesus Christ, Eternal God, Son of the Father,  
willing to hallow the world by His coming in mercy,  
was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea,  
God made flesh.*

**God is with us.**

**Hear ye people,  
even to the uttermost end of the earth.**

**The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.**

**The people that dwell in the shadow of death,  
upon them the light has shined.**

**For unto us a child is born!**

**For unto us a son is given!**

**And the government shall be upon his shoulder;**

**And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor!**

**The Mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

**Hear ye people,  
even to the uttermost end of the earth.**

**God is with us,  
Christ is born!**

*God showed me in my palm  
a little thing round as a ball  
about the size of a hazelnut.  
I looked at it with the eye of my  
understanding and asked myself:  
"What is this thing?"*

*And I was answered: "It is everything  
that is created."*

*I wondered how it could survive since  
it seemed so little it could suddenly disintegrate into nothing.*

*The answer came: "It endures and ever will  
endure because God loves it."*

*And so everything has being  
because of God's love.*

**ALL SING**

**Stand**

1. Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night  
2. And who could be the same for hav - ing held  
3. You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,  
4. How else could I have known you, O my God!

when an - gels clove the sky with — song and light  
the in - fant in their arms, and lat - er felt  
in flesh and blood you bore our — griefs and pains,  
How else could I have loved you, — O my God!

And God em - bod - ied and love side, and sheathed his - might  
the wound - ed hands and you vis - it us a - pelled  
in bread and wine you em - brace you, O my God! —

How else could I em - brace you, O my God! —

Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but sigh: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but pray: Im - man - u - el!

Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!  
Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

*Late have I loved you, O Beauty so ancient and so new;  
late have I loved you. For behold you were within me, and I  
outside; and I sought you outside and in my unloveliness  
fell upon those lovely things that you have made.  
You were with me, and I was not with you...*

*You called and cried to me to break open my deafness  
and you sent forth your beams and you shone upon me  
and chased away my blindness.  
You breathed fragrance upon me, and I drew in my breath  
and do now pant for you.  
I tasted you, and now hunger and thirst for you.  
You touched me, and I have burned for your peace.*

His voice as the sound of the dulcimer sweet,  
is heard thru' the shadows of death.  
The cedars of Lebanon bow at his feet,  
the air is perfumed with His breath.

His lips as the fountain of righteousness flow,  
that waters the garden of grace,  
From which their salvation the people shall know,  
and bask in the smile of His face.

Love sits in His eyelids and scatters delight  
thro' all the bright regions on high.  
Their faces the Cherubim veil in His sight  
and tremble with fullness of joy.

He looks and ten thousands of angels rejoice,  
and myriads wait for His word,  
He speaks and eternity filled with His voice,  
reechoes the praise of her Lord.

His voice as the sound of the dulcimer sweet,  
Is heard thru' the shadows of death.  
The cedars of Lebanon bow at His feet,  
The air is perfumed with his breath.

Oh, Thou in whose presence my soul takes delight,  
On whom in affliction I call,  
My comfort by day and my song in the night,  
My Hope, my salvation, my all.

*I am the blossom pressed in a book,  
found again after two hundred years...*

*I am the maker, the lover, the keeper...*

*When the young girl starves  
sits down to a table  
she will sit beside me...*

*I am food on the prisoner's plate...*

*I am water rushing to the well-head,  
filling the pitcher until it spills...*

*I am the patient gardener  
of the dry and weedy garden...*

*I am the stone step,  
the latch, and the working hinge...*

*I am the heart contracted by joy...  
the longest hair, white  
before the rest...*

*I am there in the basket of fruit  
presented to the widow...*

*I am the musk rose opening  
unattended, the fern on the boggy summit...*

*I am the one whose love  
overcomes you, already with you  
when you think to call my name...*

Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us.  
Stay with us, it soon is evening.  
Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us,  
it soon is evening, and night is falling.

Jesus Christ, the world's true light!  
Shine so the darkness cannot overcome it!  
Stay with us, Lord Jesus, it soon is evening.  
Stay with us, Lord Jesus, for night is falling.  
Let your light pierce the darkness  
and fill your church with its glory.

Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us.  
Stay with us, it soon is evening.  
Stay with us, Lord Jesus, stay with us,  
it soon is evening, and night is falling.

*Jesus Christ,  
yesterday, today, and forever.*

# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*As we gather to share sacred music, we acknowledge that the lands on which we perform are the ancestral and contemporary homelands of the Dahkóta, Anishinaabe, and other Indigenous peoples, ceded in the treaties of 1837 and 1851. We acknowledge that the creation stories of the Dahkóta, Anishinaabe, and other indigenous people are rooted in this place and they were the first to love, pray, grow, celebrate, cry, drum and sing upon this land. We recognize the profoundly sacred relationship that our Native siblings have with the land, and we ask for forgiveness for the ways we have violated that which is sacred to them, and that which sustains us all.*

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*We make every attempt to ensure the accuracy of this information. If you notice an error, or would like your listing changed in future publications, please call the National Lutheran Choir office at (612) 722-2301 or email info@nlca.com.*

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Karen and Mark Uecker  
Becky and Tom von Fischer  
Donna and Mike Wolsted

\*deceased



## ABOUT THE NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR

Under the direction of Dr. David Cherwien, the National Lutheran Choir celebrates, invigorates, and expands sacred choral music. Currently in its 37th year, the National Lutheran Choir features a roster of committed volunteer singers from a variety of faith backgrounds.

## UPCOMING EVENTS with the NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR

### CHORAL TUNE-UP

WITH ANTON ARMSTRONG

*A community singing event  
for church choirs and directors*


**January 14, 2023 - 9am-noon**

St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Bloomington


Registration deadline January 3

Visit [NLCA.com/tuneup](https://nlca.com/tuneup) for more information


### 2023 REGIONAL U.S. TOUR

 **March 24, 2023 - 7pm**

Bethel Lutheran Church | Rochester, MN

 **March 25, 2023 - 7pm**

First-Plymouth Church | Lincoln, NE

 **March 26, 2023 - 3pm**

First Lutheran Church | Sioux Falls, SD

More information at [NLCA.com/touring](https://nlca.com/touring)

### VIRTUAL SHOWCASE

#### THE EVOLUTION OF THE NLC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Available to all Virtual Subscribers  
beginning February 10, 2023

#### TOMORROW'S TRADITIONS: Commissions for the National Lutheran Choir

Available to all Virtual Subscribers  
beginning March 3, 2023

#### WE ALL HAVE A SONG: Hymn Festivals and the NLC

Available to all Virtual Subscribers  
beginning April 14, 2023

## A SPECIAL WEEKEND OF EVENTS TO CELEBRATE NLC'S SECOND GENERATION

### HYMN FESTIVAL: God Has Called Us

**May 5, 2023 - 7:30pm**

St. Michael's Lutheran Church,  
Bloomington



### GALA:

#### From Strength to Strength

**May 6, 2023 - 2:30pm**

Westin Galleria, Edina



### SPRING CONCERT: Ventures Known and Unknown

**May 7, 2023 - 4pm**

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church,  
Mahtomedi



**Tickets and more at [NLCA.com](https://nlca.com)**

# THE 2023 CHORAL TUNEUP



featuring renowned  
St. Olaf Choir conductor  
**DR. ANTON ARMSTRONG**



January 14, 2023 | 9am-noon  
St. Michael's Lutheran, Bloomington

CHURCH CHORISTERS:  
Learn from the best of the choral field while singing  
with other choristers from around the Twin Cities!

Register at [NLCA.com/tuneup](https://nlca.com/tuneup)



## NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR 2023 NLC Regional U.S. Tour

March 24, 7pm

Bethel Lutheran Church | Rochester, MN

March 25, 7pm

First-Plymouth Church | Lincoln, NE

March 26, 3pm

First Lutheran Church | Sioux Falls, SD



For more information,  
visit [NLCA.com/tour](https://nlca.com/tour).

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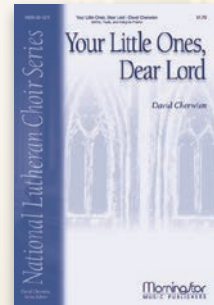
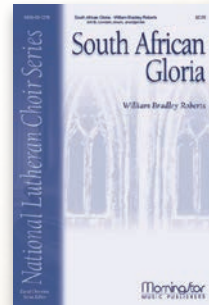
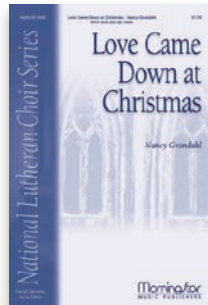
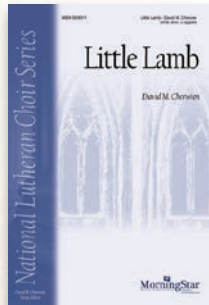
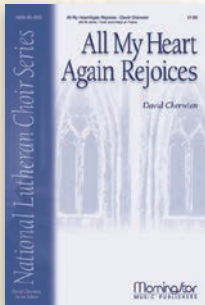


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David Cherwien, *Artistic Director*

**CHRISTMAS: JESUS CHRIST YESTERDAY, TODAY, FOREVER**

December 9, 2022 - 4:30pm and 8pm

December 10, 2022 - 8pm

The Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis, Minnesota

This program is being live-streamed and recorded.

[NLCA.com](http://NLCA.com)

Kruse, K. (2020). *Psuche: The Core of Humanity* [painting].  
Iversen Center for Faith, St. Paul, MN.