

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.

The world is charged with the grandeur of God. It will flame out, like shining from shook foil. The prodigious lengths of time leading to the first Christmas were not barren of Christ, but suffused with his powerful influence: the fearful and anonymous labors of primitive humans, the enduring beauty shaped by the Egyptians, the anxious expectations of Israel, the slowly distilled mysticism of the Orient, the hundredfold refining of the wisdom of the Greeks: all these were cosmic preparations before Christ could step into the human drama. When Christ first appeared in the arms of Mary, he had already stirred up the world.

Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race, and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore.

#### ALL SING:

Let the heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing; pow'rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring evermore and evermore.

or imagined.

God is a supernatural, inscrutable being who exists at the same time in every little seed, whole and entire, and yet also in all and above all and outside all created things. There is no need to enclose God here, for a body is much, much too wide for the Godhead; it could contain many thousand Godheads. On the other hand, it is also far, far too narrow to contain one Godhead. • Nothing is so small but God is still smaller, nothing so large but God is still larger... nothing is so broad but God is still broader, nothing so narrow, but God is still narrower. God is an inexpressible being, above and beyond all that can be described

## Glory be to God on high, and on earth, peace to all who hear God's word.

The earth adorned in verdant robe Sends praises upward surging, To join with all the universe In thankful praises merging; With hope and joy their songs employ A rapturous exultation In praise of God's creation.

Bless thou the Lord, O my soul; Bless God's Holy Name. Blessed art thou evermore, O Lord. O Lord, my God, thou art become exceeding glorious.

When thou sendest forth thy Spirit, we are created.

Lord, how manifold are thy works; In thy wisdom, O Lord, thou hast made them all.

When thou takest away our breath we die as to dust.

Lord, how manifold are thy works; In thy wisdom, O Lord, thou hast made them all.

God, Almighty Father, Lord of all creation; Glory be to thee, O Lord, thou hast made them all.

- O God, amid these joys of life, Creation's glory beaming, Grant us the grace to keep your word And live in love redeeming. All flesh is grass, the flowers fade, And time is fleeting ever;
  - God's word remains forever.

Glory be to God on high, and on earth, peace.

How are You at once the source of fire, how also the fountain of dew? How at once burning and sweetness, how a remedy for all corruption?

How do You make humans divine, how do You make darkness light? How do You make one reascend from Hell, how do You make us mortals imperishable?

How do You draw darkness to light, how do You triumph over night? How do You illumine the heart? how do You transform me entirely?

Now, at the dead end of the year, The nights are long the days are cold; We cry for help, but who will hear? The sky is dumb, our gods are tired and old.

Hodie Christus natus est; Hodie Salvator aparuit. Today Christ is born; today the Savior has appeared.

Our world spins and its dying star, Poisoned by folly, by fear and greed; And in our darkest hour of need We dream sweet dreams of rescue from afar.

Hodie in terra canunt Angeli, Laetantur Archangeli Angeli. Today the Angels sing, the Archangels rejoice.

But now the old year is reborn: The withered tree springs new and green. A baby's laughter greets the dawn Today love's old miracle is seen.

Hodie in exsultant justi, Gloria in excelsis deo. Alleluia. Hodie Christus natus est. Today the righteous rejoice, Saying Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia! Today Christ is born.

> By the words of the LORD God's works are made. As the sun in its brilliance looks down on everything, So the glory of the LORD fills God's creation. How beautiful is all that God has made, Down to the smallest spark that can be seen! The brilliant stars are the beauty of the sky, A glittering array in the heights of the LORD. God scatters the snowflakes like birds alighting; They settle like a swarm of locusts. The eye is dazzled by their beautiful whiteness. Who could ever contemplate God's glory enough?

#### Stand at the end of the organ introduction

#### ALL SING:

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:

#### Refrain

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord! The highest, most holy, light of light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain* 

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain* 

Sit

Frohlocket, ihr Völker auf Erden, und preiset Gott! Der Heiland ist erschienen, den der Herr verheisen. Er hat seine Gerechtigkeit der Welt offenbaret. Halleluja, halleluja!

All this night shrill chanticleer, Day's proclaiming trumpeter, Claps his wings and loudly cries, "Mortals, mortals, wake and rise! See a wonder Heaven is under, From the earth is risen a Sun Shines all night though day be done.

Wake, O earth, wake everything, Wake and hear the joy I bring, Wake and joy; for all this night Heaven and every twinkling light, All amazing, Still stand gazing, Angels, powers and all that be, Wake and joy this Sun to see. Hail O Sun, O blessed Light, Sent into the world by night, Let thy rays and heavenly powers Shine in this dark soul of ours; For most duly Thou art truly God and man we do confess. Hail, O Sun of Righteousness!"

#### 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.

Rejoice, give praise to the heavens and give thanks to God! The Savior has been sent, as was promised by the Lord! He has revealed his righteousness to the world. Alleluia!

> See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below, see the tender lamb appears, promised from eternal years. Hail, thou ever blessed morn; hail, redemption's happy dawn; sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Say, ye holy shepherds, say what your joyful news today; wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep? Hail, thou ever blessed morn; hail, redemption's happy dawn; Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.

"As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light; angels singing 'peace on earth' told us of the Savior's birth." Hail, thou ever blessed morn; hail, redemption's happy dawn, Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem. Sé té nan Betléèm Yon ti kwen nan Judé, Mari té f'on gason A minui n'on étab. Sé té pitit Bon Dyé, É sé té wa dè wa. Dépi'm tou piti kon sa Mwen konn istwa sa.

Té genyen twa wa maj Ki swiv yon gwo zétwal, Kado yo nan men yo Pou yo vin' adoré'l. É yo té byen sézi Lé yo we ti Jési Kouché nan mitan yon bèf Avèk yon bourik.

A la kotéou tandé, mézanmi wo! Noèl sé yon istwa ki byen étranj! Jézi, pitit Bon Dyé, wa dè wa, Ki pa genyen bèso, Li kouché sou pay pami zannimo...O! O!

Yo rélé'l admirab, Konséyé, Dyé puisan, Sé Pè étènèl tou É li sé prins la pè. Ni bèjé, ni wa maj Adoré'l a jénou. Yo ba li kado Sélon sa yo té genyen.

Lè sa si nou té la (tan-man-nam), Fok nou ta fè yon jès (tan-man-nam), Nou ta ofri mizik (ba-dap-pi) An bon jan ayisyen (tchi-ki-tchi). Nou tap poté tanbou, Manniboula, banbou, tcha-tcha, Ak bèl kout bandjo Nou ta chamé ti Jézi

Jézi, Jézi, ti Jézi nou, A la renmen, nou renmen wou. Ou poté la pè pou tout moun, É wou vin' établi la gras.

11 Marshall

Noèl, Noèl, Noèl, viv Noèl!

It was in Bethlehem, A little corner of Judea, That Mary had a baby boy At midnight in a stable. He was the Son of God And he was the King of Kings. Since I was a little child I've known this story.

There were three wise kings Who followed a great star With gifts in their hands To come worship the child. And they were quite amazed When they saw little Jesus Lying between a cow And a donkey.

Hear that, my friends! Noel is a strange story indeed! Jesus, Son of God, King of Kings, Doesn't even have a cradle. He sleeps on the straw among animals. Oh my!

They called him Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God; The Everlasting Father, too; And he was the Prince of Peace. Both shepherds and wisemen Bowed down to worship him. They gave him gifts According to what they had.

Back then, if we'd been there (ta-ma-na), We'd have done something fitting (ta-ma-na), We'd have offered him music (ba-dap-peem) Of the best Haitian kind (chee-kee-chee). We'd have brought drums, Manniboulas, vaccins, maracas; With fine banjo strums We'd have charmed little Jesus.

Jesus, Jesus, our little Jesus, We love you greatly. You bring peace to all people And you offer us grace.

Noel, Noel, Noel, long live Noel!

#### ALL SING:

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Winds through the olive trees softly did blow, Round little Bethlehem, long, long ago. Sheep on the hillside lay whiter than snow, Shepherds were watching there, long, long ago. Then from the happy skies angels bent low, Singing their songs of joy, long, long ago. For in a manger bed cradled we know, Christ came to Bethlehem, long, long, ago. Winds through the olive trees softly did blow.

#### we will circle round

#### circle round

a distant light we seek tonight a star so bright cannot be found so turn the world around

circle round

see birds of love circling above reminders of a flight begun to save a blazing sun

#### circle round

ever seeking, ever blest a world in toil and tenderness orbits a babe

circle round

herds are flocking to and fro they're on the move, such urgency to find what you and me circling round

that fateful day we orbit a babe protect it from ourselves until and so we fly to see a sign

circle round

beginning with a birth ensnares a love of sacred worth a life of pain and slow release

circle round

orbits a babe a world in toil and tenderness ever seeking, ever blest

circle round

are running to the call with maids and mothers one and all we kings and boys and shepherds too

circle round

Vidéntes, stéllam, Mági, gavísi sunt: gáudio mágno. et intrántes dómum obtulérunt Dómino áurum, thus et mýrrham. Seeing the star, the Magi rejoice exceedingly: with great joy. And, entering the house, they offered the Lord gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella, Bring a torch to the cradle, run! It is Jesus, good folk of the village, Christ is born and Mary's calling:

> Ah! Beautiful is the Mother! Ah, Beautiful is the Child!

> > It is wrong the Child is sleeping, It is wrong to talk so loud, Silence, all, as you gather around, Lest your noise should waken Jesus:

Hush! See how fast he slumbers! Hush! See how fast he sleeps!

Skies are glowing, the heavens are cloudless, Bright the path to the manger bed. Hasten all who would see the Child Jesus, Shining bright as yonder star.

Ah! Beautiful is the Mother! Ah! Beautiful is the Child!

Through the doorway softly filing, To his manger bed we come. Torches' glow the Babe discloses, Fair as snow, with cheeks like roses!

Soft! See how the Infant slumbers! Soft! See the Child asleep!

#### **ALL SING:**

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head; The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay. Mary laid her Child among the bracken fronds of night, By the glimmer round His head All the barn was lit.

Mary held her Child above the miry, frozen farm, And by the fire within His limbs The resting roots were warm.

Mary hid her Child between hillocks of hard sand; By singing water in His veins Grass sprang from the ground.

Mary nursed her Child beside the gardens of a grave, And by the death within His bones The dead became alive.

#### **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. The Infinite a sudden Guest Has been assumed to be— But how can that stupendous come Which never went away?

> All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last! Furrows lie open for God's creative task: this, the labor of people who struggle to see how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.

> > People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell: "A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel"; She conceived him, "God with us," our brother, whose birth restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared; new highways open, new protocols declared. Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace! All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!

We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib. This same Lord Jesus today has come to live In our world; he is present, in neighbors we see Our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

Nature's decorations glisten Far above the usual trim; Birds on box and laurels listen, As so near the cherubs hymn.

Boreas no longer winters On the desolated coast; Oaks no more are riv'n in splinters By the whirlwind and his host.

Spinks and ouzels sing sublimely, "We too have a Saviour born"; Whiter blossoms burst untimely On the blest Mosiac thorn.

God all-bounteous, all-creative, Whome no ills from good dissuade, Is incarnate, and a native Of the very world He made.

This night a wondrous revelation makes known to me God's love and grace; the child that merits adoration brings light to our benighted race; and though a thousand suns did shine, still brighter were that light divine.

#### **ALL SING:**

#### Stand

unu		
2		
	This is he whom seers in oldtime Organ interlude Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther,	chant-ed of with one_ ac - cord, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,
2 b }	whom the voic - es of the proph - ets	prom-ised in their faith - ful word
	hymns and chant and high thanks - giv - ing	and un-wea-ried prais - es be:
	hon-or, glo - ry, and do - min - io	d; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord on, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



A wonder is Thy mother.

The Mighty entered her, and became a servant; the Word entered her, and became silent within her; thunder entered her, and made no sound; the Shepherd of All entered her, and in her became a Lamb, bleating as he came forth. The womb of Thy Mother changed the order of things, O Thou that orderest all! The Maker of All went in in richness, and came out poor. The High One went in, and came out lowly. Brightness went into her and came forth clothed in subtle form. O Tebe raduyetsia, Blagodatnaya, fsiakaya tvar, angelskiy sobor, i chelovecheskiy rod, osviashchenniy hrame i rayu slovesniy, devstvennaya pohvalo, iz Neya zhe Bog voplotisia i mladenets bist, prezhde vek siy Bog nash; lozhesna bo Tvoya presto sotvori, i chrevo Tvoye prostranneye nebes sodela. O Tebe raduyetsia, Blagodatnaya, fsiakaya tvar, slava Tebe. All of creation rejoices in You, O Full of Grace the assembly of angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a child our God before the ages. He made Your body into a throne, and Your womb he made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in You, O Full of Grace. Glory to You!

i thank You God for most this amazing day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today, and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing breathing any - lifted from the no of all nothing - human merely being doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

Tonight eternity alone is near, the sunset and the dark'ning blue, there is no space for fear, only the wonder of its truth.

## SOURCES AND COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

Spoken readings/poetry listed in italics

**Of the Father's Love Begotten**, (st. 1, 2 and 4) Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, tr. composite; Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, Plainsong mode V, 13<sup>th</sup> century; Public Domain.

The world is changed, Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-1889).

*The prodigious lengths of time,* Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881-1955), in *Mon Univers,* collected in *Hymne de l'Univers* (Paris: Les Editions du Seuil, 1961), p. 72.

*God is a supernatural, inscrutable being,* by Martin Luther (1483-1546), "Confession Concerning Christ's Supper, 1528". Translation by Susan Palo Cherwien.

**Creation Suite**, Text & Music adapted from Sergei Rachmaninoff's *All Night Vigil*, Op. 37; *The Earth Adorned* by Waldeman Åhlen, trans. Carolyn and Kenneth Jennings © 1934/1974 Walton Music Corporation; Alexander Gretchaninioff's *Psalm 104*; arr. Larry Fleming, 1996.

*How are you at once,* Symeon the New Theologian (949-1022), from *Hymns of Divine Love*, translated by George A. Maloney, S.J.

Winter Solstice Carol, English Text: Giles Swayne © 1998 Novello & Company Ltd. Reprinted by permission of Hal Leonard LLC; Music: William Beckstrand © 2009 Birnamwood Publications a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc., Catalog #MSM-50-1114.

By the words of the Lord God's works are made, from Sirach 42 and 43.

**O Come, All Ye Faithful,** Text: attr. John Francis Wade; tr. Frederick Oakeley, st. 1 and 3; tr. Unknown, st. 2; Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade.

**Frohlocket ihr Völker auf Erden,** Music: Felix Mendelssohn, ed. Lawrence Kaptein © 2003 JEHMS, Inc., a division of Alliance Music Publications, Inc., Catalog #AMP-0504.

 $\label{eq:chanticleer, Text: William Austin; Music: Aaron David Miller @ Aaron David Miller.$ 

Angels We Have Heard on High, Text: French carol; tr. H.F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864; Music: GLORIA, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes.

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Joy to the World, Text: Isaac Watts; Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18<sup>th</sup> cent.; arr. Lowell Mason.

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**Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella** (from Carols of the Nativity), Text: from *Collection of Christmas Carols in Provincial Languages*, 1856; Music: Marc-Antoine Charpentier, arr. Stephen Chatman © 2005 by Highgate Press, a division of ECS Publishing, All rights reserved. Catalog #7.0452.

Away in a Manger, Text: North American, 19<sup>th</sup> cent.; Music: AWAY IN A MANGER, James R. Murray.

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Silent Night, Text: Joseph Mohr, tr. John F. Young; Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber.

**The Proclamation of Christmas,** (Kalenda) from the *Roman Martyrology*, 16<sup>th</sup> century, based on earlier martyrologies.

This Night, Text: Caspar F. Nachtenhöfer, tr. Anna B. Hoppe; Music: O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZUNGEN HÄTTE, Johan B. König, arr. F. Melius Christiansen © 1934 Augsburg Publishing House and this edition © 2021 Augsburg Fortress.

The Infinite a sudden guest, Emily Dickinson (1830-1886).

All Earth is Hopeful, Toda la Tierra (All Earth is Waiting) by Alberto Taulé & Tirso Vaquero © 1972, 1993, Centre de Pastoral Litúrgica, Barcelona. Derechos reservados. Administradora exclusiva en EE. UU. y Canadá: OCP. Used with permission. Music: TODA LA TIERRA, newly composed by David Cherwien © 2016 Birnamwood Publications, a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc., Catalog #MSM-50-0951.

*Nature's decorations glisten*, Christopher Smart (1722-1771), "The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ".

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*A wonder is Thy mother*, from "Nativity Hymn #8, Saint Ephrem the Syrian (306-373), translated by Rev. John Brande Morris (1812-1880), adapted by Susan Palo Cherwien.

All of Creation Rejoices, Text: *from* Liturgy of St. Basil the Great; Music: Pavel Chesnokov © 1995 by Musica Russica, Inc. Catalog #MRSM Cn 081.

*i thank You God for most this amazing day,* e.e. cummings, in *American Religious Poems,* ed. Harold Bloom (New York: Library of America, 2006).

**Tonight Eternity Alone,** Text: from *Dusk at Sea*, Thomas S. Jones, Jr.; Music: Rene Clausen © 1991, Fostco Music Press, a division of Shawnee Press, Inc., Catalog #MF3034.



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For information about making a donation to the National Lutheran Choir, contact Executive Director Tina Meckel at (612) 722-2301 ext. 105 or tina@nlca.com.

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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#### Thank you to those funding Chairs in the National Lutheran Choir.

A chair is an annually renewing gift that supports the participation of one singer in the National Lutheran Choir for one concert season. Chair pledges and donations are made between August and December.

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## ABOUT THE NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR

Under the direction of Dr. David Cherwien, the 60 plus member National Lutheran Choir's artistry is rooted in its mission to strengthen, renew, and preserve the heritage of sacred choral music. Currently in its 36th 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 TOM TRENNEY

An educational event for church choirs and directors

**February 19, 2022 - 9am-noon** Roseville Lutheran Church, Roseville

Registration deadline February 1 Visit NLCA.com/tune-up for more information

### **TOUCH THE EARTH LIGHTLY**

**February 20, 2022 - 4pm** Roseville Lutheran Church, Roseville

NOTE: Those who want to sing in the mass choir for this concert must take part in the Tune-up the day prior.

## D BLESSED SPRING

Streamable March 13-16, 2022

#### **THE EARTH SINGS BEAUTY**

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May 1 - 4pm St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi

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## PACIFIC NORTHWEST TOUR 2022

FRIDAY, APRIL 22 - 7:30PM Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral Seattle, WA

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### CHRISTMAS: THE EARTH ADORNED

December 10, 2021 - 4:30pm and 8pm December 11, 2021 - 8pm The Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis, Minnesota This program is being live-streamed and recorded. NLCA.com