



WHO IS HE?

St. Lucas Lutheran Elementary School

**Christmas Eve
December 24, 2021**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (CW 55)

[children join in on refrains]

1. *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!

2. *God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,*
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes!
Only begotten Son of God the Father:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

3. *Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,*
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

[stand for final stanza]

4. *Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy evening;*
Jesus, to thee be all glory given!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

INVOCATION AND RESPONSIVE READING

from Psalm 27

MINISTER: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

CHILDREN & CONGREGATION: Amen.

MINISTER: Lift up your heads, you gates;

CHILDREN: Be lifted up, you ancient doors,

CONGREGATION: That the King of glory may come in.

MINISTER: Who is this King of Glory?

CHILDREN: The LORD strong and mighty,

CONGREGATION: The LORD mighty in battle.

MINISTER: Lift up your heads, you gates;

CHILDREN: Lift them up, you ancient doors,

CONGREGATION: That the King of glory may come in.

MINISTER: Who is he, this King of glory?

ALL: The LORD Almighty — he is the King of glory.

[Be seated]

INTRODUCTION

NARRATION:

Have you ever had someone tell you that a visitor is coming, but doesn't tell you the visitor's name? Instead, you're given descriptions or clues to the visitor's identity. As long as the visitor's identity is unknown, one question is foremost in mind: Who is he or she? We will look at some of the descriptions, or clues, God gave to his people about a man who was to come into the world. His identity is important to us too. So we also ask, "Who is he?"

SONG: “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You,” stanzas 1, 2, 4 (CW 18) [Sixer Singers]

1. *O Lord, how shall I meet you,
How welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
My hope, my heart’s delight.
O Jesus, let your Word be
A lamp to light y way,
To show me how to please you,
To guide me every day.*
2. *Love caused your incarnation,
Love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation
Procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling
That led you to embrace
In love, all love excelling,
Our lost and fallen race.*
3. *Sin’s debt, that fearful burden,
Let not your souls distress;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon
And cover by his grace.
He comes, for you procuring
The peace of sin forgiven,
His children thus securing
Eternal life in heaven.*

PART ONE – WHO IS HE? THE PROMISED ONE

NARRATION:

In Genesis chapter 1 we read,

RECITATION: [K-1]

“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning — the sixth day.” (Genesis 1:31)

NARRATION:

God had created a perfect world. And he put the crown of his creation — humans — in the Garden of Eden, where he had placed the Tree of Life. When they ate from this tree, it gave them eternal life. God intended for them to live in his perfect creation forever. But God also placed another named tree in the garden, and with it came a command.

RECITATION: [7-8]

“The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.’ ” (Genesis 2:15-17)

NARRATION:

For a time, Adam and Eve obeyed this command. However, the devil came and led Adam and Eve into sin by enticing them to eat from the forbidden tree.

PASTOR’S NARRATION:

“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, ‘Did God really say, “You must not eat from any tree in the garden?” ’ The woman said to the serpent, ‘We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, “You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.” ’ ‘You will not certainly die,’ the serpent said to the woman. ‘For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.” (Genesis 3:1-7)

NARRATION:

Adam and Eve disobeyed God’s command. And because of their sin, they would die. They had separated themselves from God. But God, out of great love for his creation, did not abandon them. He had a plan, already from eternity, that would save the human race from its sin. God promised to send a Savior.

RECITATION: [2-3]

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” (Genesis 3:15)

NARRATION:

Who is he? All we know is this: God promised that when this man came, he would destroy the power of the devil

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: “Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes” (CW 12)



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the cap - tives to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Your wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -
pris - on held. The gates of brass be -
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst; The i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring With your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51, abr., alt.

Tune: CHESTERFIELD (CM) Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt.

PART TWO – WHO IS HE? THE PROPHESED ONE

NARRATION:

From God’s description in the Garden of Eden of the one who was to come, believers could not yet answer exactly the question, “Who is he?” So throughout the Old Testament, God gave further descriptions concerning this Promised One. God inspired the prophet Micah to reveal where this man would be born.

RECITATION: [5-6]

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” (Micah 5:2)

NARRATION:

Through Jeremiah and Isaiah, God foretold that this man would belong to the line of King David and would reign on his throne forever.

RECITATION: [2-3]

“ ‘The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.’ ” (Jeremiah 23:5-6)

RECITATION: [7-8]

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.” (Isaiah 9:6-7)

NARRATION:

Isaiah also reveals that this man would suffer for us.

RECITATION: [5-6]

“Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:4-6)

NARRATION:

Who is he? We still do not have a complete description of this man. However, these prophecies fill in greater detail about him and his mission.

Congregational Hymn: “Behold, a Branch is Growing” (CW 47)

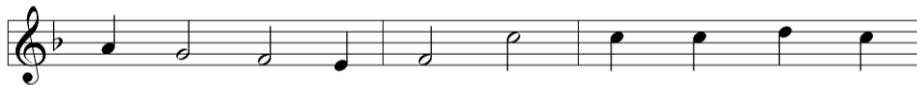
[Sixer Singers sing German introduction]

1. *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen,
aus einer Wurzel zart,
wie uns die Alten sungen,
von Jesse kam die Art
Und hat ein Blümlein
bracht mitten im kalten Winter,
wohl zu halben Nacht.*

[congregation continues with stanzas 1-3 in English]



1 Be - hold, a Branch is grow - ing Of
 2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it In
 3 The shep - herds heard the sto - ry Pro -
 4 This flow'r, so small and ten - der, With
 5 O Sav - ior, Child of Mar - y, Who



love - liest form and grace, As proph - ets sang, fore -
 words of prom - ise sure, And Mar - y's arms en -
 claimed by an - gels bright, How Christ, the Lord of
 fra - grance fills the air; His bright - ness ends the
 felt our hu - man woes, O Sav - ior, King of



know - ing; It springs from Jes - se's race And
 fold it, A vir - gin meek and pure. Through
 glo - ry, Was born on earth this night. To
 dark - ness That kept the earth in fear. True
 glo - ry, Who con - quered all our foes, Bring



bears one lit - tle flow'r In midst of cold - est
 God's e - ter - nal will This child to her is
 Beth - le - hem they sped And in the man - ger
 God and yet true man, He came to save his
 us at last, we pray, To the bright courts of



win - ter, At deep - est mid - night hour.
 giv - en At mid - night calm and still.
 found him, As an - gel her - alds said.
 peo - ple From earth's dark night of sin.
 heav - en And to the end - less day.

Text: *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, Köln, 1599, abr.; tr. composite.
 Tune: ES IST EIN ROS (76 76 676) *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, Köln, 1599.

PART THREE – WHO IS HE? THE NEWBORN ONE

NARRATION:

For thousands of years, God provided prophecy after prophecy about the one he had promised to send to save humankind from their sin. The world was now ready. God sent his angel to a virgin named Mary, a descendant of King David's family who was living in the lowly town of Nazareth, to give her some wonderful news.

SONG: "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came," stanzas 1-2 (CW 24) [K-3]

1. *The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame:
"All hail," said he to meek and lowly Mary,
"Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!*
2. *"I come from heaven to tell the Lord's decree:
A blessed virgin mother you shall be.
Your son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!*

NARRATION:

Mary lived in Nazareth, about 90 miles from Bethlehem where the Promised One was to be born. But God used the Roman emperor to get Mary to Bethlehem so she would give birth to the Savior there, just as Micah had prophesied.

RECITATION: [K-3, divided]

"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. 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. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 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." (Luke 2:1-7)

CHILDREN & CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: “Stille Nacht” / “Silent Night, Holy Night” (CW 60)
 [K-8 sings German introduction then stanza 1 in English, congregation sings remaining stanzas]

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
 Alles schläft, einsam wacht
 Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
 Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
 Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
 Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.*

*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.*



1 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is
 2 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds
 3 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of



calm, all is bright, Round yon vir - gin
 quake at the sight. Glo - ries stream from
 God, love's pure light Ra - diant beams from



moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so
 heav - en a - far; Heav'n - ly hosts sing,
 thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re -

ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
Al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sav - ior, is
deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace, born! birth, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848, abr.; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85.
Tune: STILLE NACHT (Irregular) Franz X. Gruber, 1787–1863, alt.

NARRATION:

The one promised in the Garden of Eden finally came into this world! But how would people know that he had come? There were no easy way to get the word out. But God had a plan. He sent an angel to a small group of shepherds to announce the birth of the Savior.

RECITATION: [5-6]

“There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. 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. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’” (Luke 2:8-12)

RECITATION: [K-1]

“Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.’” (Luke 2:13-14)

RECITATION: [7-8]

“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.’ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.” (Luke 2:15-16)

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: “To Shepherds as They Watched by Night” (CW 53)



1 To shep - herds as they watched by night Ap - peared
2 “At Beth - le - hem, in Da - vid’s town, As Mi -
3 Oh, then re - joice that through his Son God is
4 What harm can sin and death then do? The true
5 Not one he will or can for - sake; His cov -



a host of an - gels bright; “Be - hold the ten - der
cah did of old make known. It is the Christ, your
with sin - ners now at one; Made like your - selves of
God now a - bides with you. Let hell and Sa - tan
'nant he will nev - er break. Let ev - 'ry scheme the



babe,” they said, “In yon - der low - ly man - ger laid,
Lord and King, Who will to all sal - va - tion bring.”
flesh and blood, Your broth - er is th e - ter - nal God.
storm and rave, Christ is your broth - er— you are safe.
tempt - er try, You may his ut - most pow’rs de - fy.

6 You shall and must at last prevail.
God’s own you are; you cannot fail.
To God forever sing your praise
With joy and patience all your days.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.
Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR (LM) Latin melody, 15th century, adapt.

PART FOUR – WHO IS HE? THE ONE TO BE SHARED

NARRATION:

The Savior had come, and what wondrous news this was! The shepherds believed the message of the angel, so they left their sheep to see their Savior. They were so excited that the long-awaited one had finally come! And they could not help but tell everyone they met what they had witnessed.

RECITATION: [2-3]

“When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.” (Luke 2:17-20)

NARRATION:

Now we have the answer to the question, “Who is he?” He is Jesus Christ, the Lord come to save us from our sins. That is good news! Like the shepherds, we want to share that news with others so that they also may have the peace the angel spoke of — peace between God and sinners. Jesus himself tells us how, and what, we are to share.

RECITATION: [K-8]

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

SONG: “Love Has Come” (CW 364)

1. *Love has come, a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!*
2. *Love is born! Come share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.*
3. *Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!*

CLOSING

PRAYER:

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SONG: "Who Is He?" (by Matthew Manthe)

[Sixer Singers sing verses, all children join in on refrains]

- Who is he that brings us here
On the same night ev'ry year?
Who is he we give our praise
All our nights and all our days?
Refrain:
'Tis the Lord, O wondrous story!
'Tis the Lord, the King of glory!
At his feet we humbly fall,
Crown him, crown him, Lord of all!*
- Who is he whom at the fall
God has pledged to save us all?
Who will crush the serpent's head
And remove all fear and dread?
Refrain*
- Who is he whom men of old
By their prophecies foretold?
Who will set all people free
As he dies upon the tree?
Refrain*

4. *Who is he of whom hosts sing,
“Glory to the newborn King?”*

*Who is he, this newborn one,
Shepherds rush to look upon?*

Refrain

5. *Who is he, this babe so small,
Yet the Savior of us all?*

*Who is he who tells us, “Go!”
That the world his name may know?*

Refrain

MINISTER: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

CONGREGATION: Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: "Joy to the World" (CW 62)

[K-8 stay in front to sing stanza 1 with congregation; congregation sings all stanzas]



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let
 3 No more let sins, and sor - rows grow Nor
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And



earth re - ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry
 all their songs em - ploy, While fields and
 thorns in - fest the ground; He comes to
 makes the na - tions prove The glo - ries



heart pre - pare him room And heav'n and
 floods, rocks, hills, and plains Re - peat the
 make his bless - ings flow Far as the
 of his right - eous - ness And won - ders



na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And
 sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
 curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far
 of his love, And won - ders of his love, And



heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 as, far as the curse is found.
 won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Tune: ANTIOCH (CM with Repeat) George F. Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.