

Reprinted with permission under copyright license # A-735609 by OneLicense.net. All rights reserved.

Gathering Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1. 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 the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
2. 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! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
3. 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!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.; Tune: MENDELSSOHN, 77 77 D with refrain; Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847.

Responsorial Psalm: Blest Are Those Who Love You

REFRAIN: Blest are those who love you, happy those who follow you,
Blest are those who seek you, O God.

1. Happy all those who fear the Lord, and walk in God's pathway; you will find what you long for: the riches of our God. (Refrain)
2. Your spouse shall be like a fruitful vine in the midst of your home, your children flourish like olive plants rejoicing at your table. (Refrain)
3. May the blessings of God be yours all the days of your life, may the peace and the love of God live always in your heart. (Refrain)

Text: Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 5; Marty Haugen; Music: Marty Haugen, refrain II adapt. By Dianna Kodner © 1987, 1993, GIA Publications, Inc.

Preparation of the Altar: God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay;
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray. (Refrain)

REFRAIN: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy!

2. In Bethlehem in Judah this blessed babe was born,
And laid within a manger upon this blessed morn,
For which his mother Mary did nothing take in scorn. (Refrain)
3. From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name. (Refrain)

Text: English carol, 18th c.; Tune: GOD REST YOU MERRY, 8 6 8 6 8 6 with refrain; English 18th C.; harm. by John Stainer, 1840-1901.

Distribution of Holy Communion: Bread of Life

REFRAIN: Bread of Life, hope of the world, Jesus Christ, our brother:
Feed us now, give us life, lead us to one another.

1. A child is born for us, a son is giv'n to us, in our midst, Christ, our Lord and God
Comes as one who serves. (Refrain)
2. With our own eyes we see, with our own ears we hear the salvation of all the world,
God's incarnate word. (Refrain)
3. You are the hope of all, our promise and our call, radiant light in our darkness,
Truth to set us free. (Refrain)

Text and music ©1982, 1987, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Distribution of Holy Communion 2: O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. 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 tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch in wond'ring love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.
3. 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.
4. O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

Text: 86 86 76 86; Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893, alt. Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908.

Sending Forth: Go, Tell It On the Mountain

REFRAIN: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (Refrain)
2. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)
3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

Text: African American spiritual; verses by John W. Work, Jr. 1872-1925; Tune: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN, 7 6 7 6 with refrain; African American spiritual; harm. by Robert J. Batastini, b. 1942. © 1995.