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6. A Holy Ending Begun

Narrator: As children of God declared holy through Christ Jesus, a holy ending awaits us after this life. We are called to eternal glory! Listen joyfully to our promising holy future:

Oh,
Holy
Night

Grades K-1: ... you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance ... Ephesians 1:13-14

Grades 2-3: But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. Romans 6:22

Grades 4-6: And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Revelation 21:10

Grades 7-8: Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him ... Hebrews 3:1

Children: What a holy night this is! Our holy Savior was born to bring holiness to us by His death on the cross. As children of God, may He send His Holy Spirit so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and live a holy life here in time and hereafter in eternity!

Quartet:..... *O HOLY NIGHT*

O holy night! – the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior’s birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;
Fall on your knees, Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!
Fall on your knees, Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Offering:

Closing Prayer & Lord’s Prayer:



© Holy Night

Choir:..... *LOVE HAS COME*

Processional Hymn:..... *O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM*

Congregation: Stanza 1 & 4; **Choir:** Stanza 3; **Children:** Stanza 2

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| <p>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 darkness shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears Of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>2. For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, The angels keep
Their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing To God, the King,
And peace to men on earth.</p> <p>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:
Oh, come to us, Abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!</p> |
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Responsive Reading:..... *SELECTED PASSAGES*

Children: Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!

Congregation: He has kept His promise to our fathers in His holy covenant and raised up a Horn of salvation for us from the house of David, as He promised by the mouth of His holy prophets long ago.

Pastor: Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him.

Children: Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!

Congregation: Oh, sing to the LORD a new song! For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.

“Holy,
holy, holy
is the Lord God
Almighty,
who was,
and is, and is,
to come.”
Revelation 4:8

Pastor: For God is the King of all the earth; Sing praises with understanding. God reigns over the nations; God sits on His holy throne.

Children: No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God.

Congregation: The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Pastor: Your testimonies are very sure; Holiness adorns Your house, O LORD, forever.

Children: Exalt the LORD our God, And worship at His footstool — He is holy.

Congregation: The LORD reigns; Let the peoples tremble! He dwells between the cherubim; Let the earth be moved!

Pastor: The King's strength also loves justice; You have established equity; You have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

Children: Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!



Choir: *CRADLE HYMN TO JESUS*

Introduction: © Holy Night

Scripture Reading: *LUKE 1:68-72*

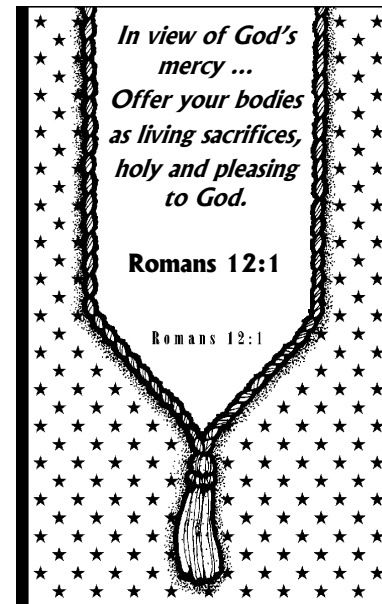
Children: Tonight we share with you the story, of God's holy glory. Christmas is a special time set apart to honor the birth of the Holy Son of God, our Savior Jesus Christ. Listen as we share this joyous message in our worship service this evening: "O Holy Night."

Children: *O HOLY NIGHT SHALT BE (TLH 246)*

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Now tonight we praise Thy name, Thy holiness to see.
Holy, holy, holy! Set apart in glory!
God's only Son becomes humanity.
2. Holy, holy, holy! Shepherds now adore Thee,
For tonight Thou com'st to man, Thy holy birth to see.
Only Thou art holy; As we hear Thy story.
Set all apart, O holy night shalt be.



2.



holiness. 1 Thessalonians 4:7

Catherine & Victoria: Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, ... Hebrews 12:14

Sarah & Jacob H.: Jesus said: "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." John 17:17

Anne: I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. Romans 12:1

Brooke: Therefore, ... what manner *of persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, ... 2 Peter 3:11-12

Congregation: *TLH 127: AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD*

1. As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by Thee!
3. As they offered gifts most rare
At Thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King!



11.

5. A Holy Life Lived

Narrator: Our Savior has declared us holy by His atoning death on the cross, making us His holy temple. This is how we are saved and go to heaven. In response He desires that we live a joyful, holy life for Him, meaning that our lives are now separated and dedicated to Him. He has taught us so to do in the Lord's Prayer when we pray, "Hallowed be Thy name." How is His name hallowed, or kept holy? Listen to Martin Luther's explanation: "God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we as children of God also live a holy life according to it. Help us do this, dear heavenly Father."

Emily: Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Jacob H.: Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you? 1 Corinthians 3:16

David: If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which *temple* you are. 1 Corinthians 3:17

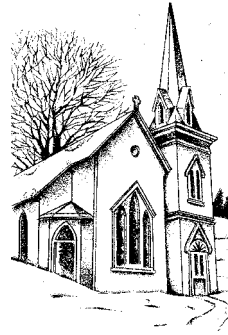
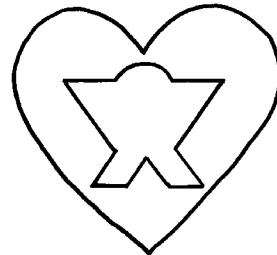
Charles: ... you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:5

CDS Children: *TLH 89: TO THEE MY HEART I OFFER*

1. To Thee my heart I offer,
O Christ-child sweet and dear,
Upon Thy love relying;
Oh, be Thou ever near!
Take Thou my heart and give me Thine
And let it be forever mine,
O Jesus, holy, undefiled,
My Savior meek and mild.

2. My heart within is glowing,
O Christ-child sweet and dear;
I love Thee, Lord and Savior,
Oh, be Thou ever near!
I see Thee in a manger laid,
Near cattle resting unafraid;
I see Thy deep humility
And lowly bow to Thee.

5. Let me be Thine forever,
O Christ-child sweet and dear;
Uphold me with Thy mercy,
And be Thou ever near.
From Thee I gladly all receive,
And what is mine to Thee I give,
My heart, my soul, and all I own.
Let these be Thine alone.



1. A Holy Beginning Ruined

Narrator: When God originally created man, He made him in His image. This did not mean that we took on the physical likeness of God, for He is spirit and we are flesh and blood. From the Bible we learn that being created in God's image means that we were created with dignity and perfection just as He is perfect. We were holy, set apart as righteous. But it did not take us long to ruin this. With the Fall into sin, we ruined that holiness and now are the complete opposite: sinful.

Julianna: When God made man He said: "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; ..." So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Genesis 1:26-27

Sarah: The Psalmist teaches that this image of God is righteousness — or holiness — when he says: "As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness." Psalm 17:15

Olivia: Since Adam and Eve sinned, this original holiness was lost. In the book of Romans we are told: Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned ... Romans 5:12,14

David: Many other Bible passages tell us about this loss of holiness that now exists on the part of man. Listen to a few, like this one: But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ... having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! 2 Timothy 3:1-2,5

Bea: Jesus said: "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. Matthew 15:18

Catherine: For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ... Romans 1:18

Victoria: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin *is* always before me. Psalm 51:2-3

Congregation: *TLH 76: A GREAT AND MIGHTY WONDER*

1. A great and mighty wonder.
A full and holy cure:
The Virgin bears the Infant
With virgin honor pure!
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"

4. Since all He comes to ransom.
By all be He adored,
The Infant born in Beth'lem,
The Savior and the Lord.
Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"

2. A Holy Promise Fulfilled

Narrator: Because of our imperfection and lack of holiness, mankind fails to meet God's perfect standard of holiness. Without a solution to this problem, we would be doomed to certain eternal destruction. But God did not delay in providing a resolution. He promised throughout the Old Testament times that a Holy One would be born to provide the standard of perfect holiness. He made a holy promise that a Savior would be born for us!

Jack: "Behold, *the* days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth." Jeremiah 23:5

Jessica: "In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this *is* His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS." Jeremiah 23:6

John: Break forth into joy, sing together, You waste places of Jerusalem!
For the LORD has comforted His people, He has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has made bare His holy arm In the eyes of all the nations;
And all the ends of the earth shall see The salvation of our God. Isaiah 52:9-10

Ned: Look down from heaven, And see from Your habitation, holy and glorious. Where are Your zeal and Your strength, The yearning of Your heart and Your mercies toward me? Are they restrained? ... You, O LORD, are our Father; Our Redeemer from Everlasting is Your name. Isaiah 63:15-16

Kindergarten: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

Pre-School: Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given. Isaiah 9:6

CDS Children: *WS 71 1: SEE IN YONDER MANGER LOW*

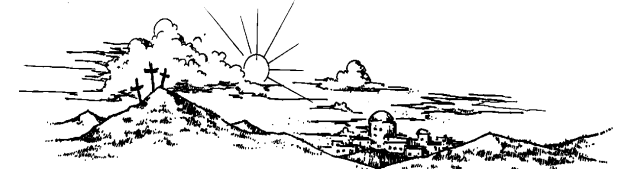
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| <p>1. See in yonder manger low,
Born for us on earth below,
See the gentle Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years. <i>(Refrain)</i></p> <p>3. Sacred Infant, all divine,
What a tender love was Thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this. <i>(Refrain)</i></p> | <p>2. Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies,
He, who throned in height sublime,
Sits amid the cherubim. <i>(Refrain)</i></p> <p>4. Teach, oh, teach us, holy Child,
By Thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble Thee
In Thy sweet humility. <i>(Refrain)</i></p> |
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Refrain: Hail the ever blessed morn; Hail redemption's happy dawn;
Sing through all Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"



Congregation: *REJOICE YE SONS OF MEN ALWAYS! (TLH 85)*

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| <p>1. Rejoice, ye sons of men alway!
God comes to you from heav'n today;
The Lord is born a little child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild.</p> <p>3. Through His low birth and holy blood
We are all saved by Christ, true God;
The angel's glory we shall share
And in His kingdom live fore'er.</p> | <p>2. He brings us peace and happiness,
He heals all sorrow and distress
Which on account of Adam's fall
Forever weighed upon us all.</p> |
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It is finished.

Adam: Now, therefore, you ... have been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-21



Julianna: ... we have been sanctified [that is, made holy] through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*. Hebrews 10:10

Jack: ... But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Corinthians 6:11

Olivia: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

Kindergarten: ... the blood of Jesus Christ God's Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:7

Pre-School: Create in me a clean heart, O God. Psalm 51:10

Young Children (Pre-School-3rd Grade): *IN A LITTLE STABLE*

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| <p>1. In a little stable
Far across the sea
Was a little Baby
Just like you and me.</p> <p>3. Oh, I love this Jesus,
Who was little then,
For He surely loves me,
Little though I am.</p> | <p>2. Not a bed or cradle,
Not a pillow deep,
But a lowly manger
Was His place to sleep.</p> <p>4. As each happy Christmas
Dawns on earth again,
Comes the holy Christ-child
To the hearts of men.</p> |
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4. A Holy Act Completed

Narrator: Upon His birth in this sin-tainted world, our Savior began to live His perfect life. He was “set apart” or “holy” from all others before Him or after Him. But the chief purpose of His life was to complete the holy act that His Father sent Him to complete: to redeem us with His holy, precious blood and His innocent sufferings and death. By giving His life as the holy sacrifice, we unholy people now stand before God declared as righteous and perfect. We are justified. That means we are now God’s holy saints! Listen now to the Scriptures that tell us how this wonderful act has now made us holy in God’s sight.

Emily: For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Hebrews 9:13-14



Charles: For such a High Priest [that is, Jesus] was fitting for us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; ... Hebrews 7:26

Anne: [The Lord] who has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, ... 2 Timothy 1:9

Brooke: ... Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. Ephesians 5:25-27

Mikkela: And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight ... Colossians 1:21-22

Ned: Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, ... Ephesians 1:3-4

John: But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ... 1 Peter 2:9

Adam: “Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’” Psalm 2:6-9

Mikkela: And the angel answered and said to Mary, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.” Luke 1:35

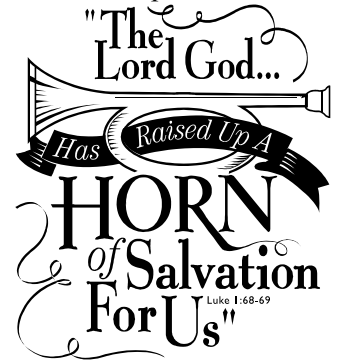
Rachel: And Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name.” Luke 1:46-49

Brandon: Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, confessed: “Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people, And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David,

Jacob R.: As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who have been since the world began, That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us, To perform the mercy promised to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant, ...” Luke 1:68-72

Children: *TLH 73: LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES*

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| <p>1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of Glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near,
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring,
Wherefore rejoice and gladly sing:
We praise Thee, Father, now,
Creator, wise art Thou!</p> | <p>2. A Helper just He comes to thee,
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings,
Wherefore the earth is glad and sings:
We praise Thee, Savior, now,
Mighty in deed art Thou!</p> |
| <p>4. Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for Heaven’s employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sovereign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To Thee, O God, be praise
For word and deed and grace!</p> | |

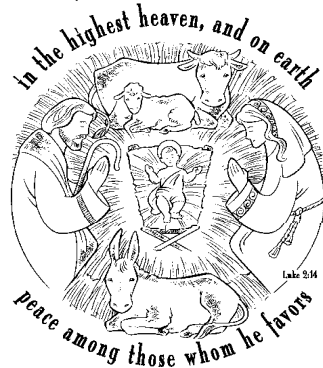


3. A Holy Child Born

Narrator: God remembered His holy promise (or covenant) to unholy mankind. He sent His Holy Son, Jesus Christ, to be born for us. The only way such a perfect birth could ever possibly take place is by God the Holy Spirit miraculously conceiving within Mary this Holy Child. We now go back to the story where it all took place, a genuine, holy birth.

Children: *LUKE 2:1-7*

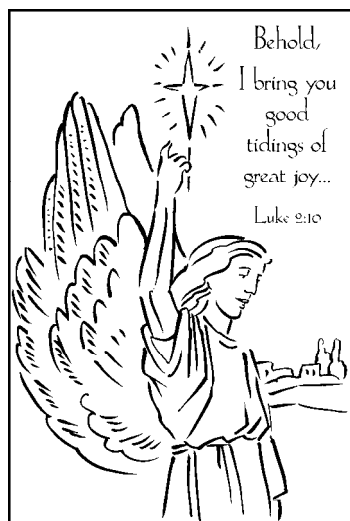
GLORY TO GOD



(1) And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (2) (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) (3) And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city. (4) And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) (5) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. (6) And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. (7) And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

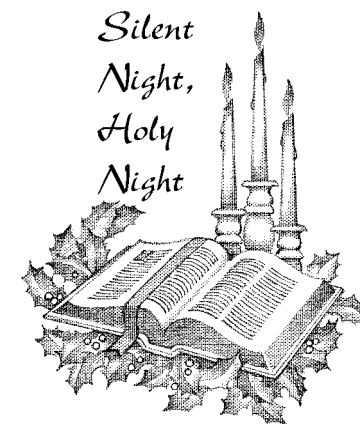
Quartet: *THE INFANT KING*

Children: *LUKE 2:8-14*



(8) And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. (9) And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. (10) And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. (11) "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. (12) "And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." (13) And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, (14) "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Congregation: *TLH 646: SILENT NIGHT*



1. 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.
3. Silent Night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Children: *LUKE 2:15-20*

(15) And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us." (16) And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. (17) And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this Child. (18) And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. (19) But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. (20) And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.



Children: *WS 706: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN*

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
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)**