

The Stars of Christmas

The Stars of Abraham

December 6, 2023

Prelude

Bell

Welcome

We Greet Each Other

(stand)

Invocation and Opening Responses

P In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night,

C **and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years, and let them be lights in the expanse of the sky to give lights on the earth.”**

All **And it was so.** [Gen.1:14-16]

P When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars, which you have set in place

C **what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?**

All **You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.”** [Ps.8:3-5]

P (God) took (Abraham) outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars – if indeed you can count them.”

C **Then (God) said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”**

All Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness

[Gen.15:5-6]

P A star will come out of Jacob;

C a scepter will rise out of Israel.

All A ruler will come out of Jacob.... [Num.24:17,19]

P To David God promised, "...the LORD himself will establish a house for you...

C "I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." [2 Sam.7:11, 13]

All The angel said to (Mary), "Do not be afraid...you will give birth to a son....The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever." [Lk.1:30,32-33]

P The Magi asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?

C "We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." [Matt.2:2]

All We too are here, O Lord, to worship You, for we believe You are "the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright Morning Star." [Rev.22:16]



817 Earth and All Stars

1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets! Sing to the
7 Chil - dren of God, Dy - ing and ris - ing, Sing to the

Lord a new song! Oh, vic - to - ry! Loud shout - ing
Lord a new song! Heav - en and earth, Hosts ev - er -

ar - my! Sing to the Lord a new song!
last - ing, Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain

He has done mar - vel - ous things.

I too will praise Him with a new song!

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The first staff has two lines of lyrics. The second staff has two lines of lyrics. The third staff has two lines of lyrics. The fourth staff is the start of the refrain, with the word 'Refrain' written above it. The fifth staff has one line of lyrics. The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. There are some ties and phrasing slurs.

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Prayer

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

Shine down on us, O God, with the light of Your love and truth.
Pour into our hearts the knowledge of Your Son, Jesus Christ,
as well as the passion of His heart so we may let our lights
shine before others, so they may see our good works and give
You all the honor and glory;

All **through the true Star of creation and redemption, Your
Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

(sit)

Reading

Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-6; 22:15-18

The Call of Abram

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

God’s Covenant with Abram

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir.” And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: “This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir.” And he brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Children's Message

352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly,
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets',
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of

kept His word And at last to us did send
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me

Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

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Offering

933 My Soul Rejoices



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bless - ing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

(stand)

Prayers

from LSB “Evening Prayer” pp.244f

- P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
C **the light no darkness can overcome.**
- P Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
C **and the day is almost over.**
- P Let Your light scatter the darkness
C **and illumine Your church.**
- P Joyous light of glory:
C **of the immortal Father, heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ. We have come to the setting of the sun, and we look to the evening light. We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever.**
- P O Son of God, O Giver of life:
C **the universe proclaims Your glory.**
- special petitions may be spoken here -
- P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation
- All **and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

- All **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the +Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless and preserve us.

C **Amen.**

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
by Thy draw - ing night; Dis - perse the gloom - y

ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el

Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

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Announcements

Postlude