

The Stars of Christmas

The Star of Jacob

December 13, 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]

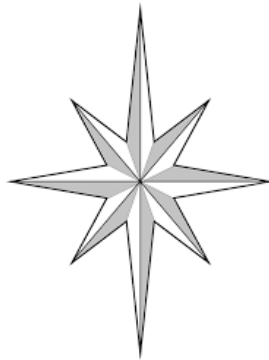
P When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and stars, which you have set in place

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!

Text and tune: © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 708390

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

Numbers 24:15-19

Balaam's Final Oracle

And he took up his discourse and said,
“The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor,
the oracle of the man whose eye is opened,
the oracle of him who hears the words of God,
and knows the knowledge of the Most High,
who sees the vision of the Almighty,
falling down with his eyes uncovered:
I see him, but not now;
I behold him, but not near:
a star shall come out of Jacob,
and a scepter shall rise out of Israel;
it shall crush the forehead of Moab
and break down all the sons of Sheth.
Edom shall be dispossessed;
Seir also, his enemies, shall be dispossessed.
Israel is doing valiantly.
And one from Jacob shall exercise dominion
and destroy the survivors of cities!”

Scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

Children's Message

348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Text and tune: Public domain

Message

“The Star of Jacob”

Numbers 24:17a

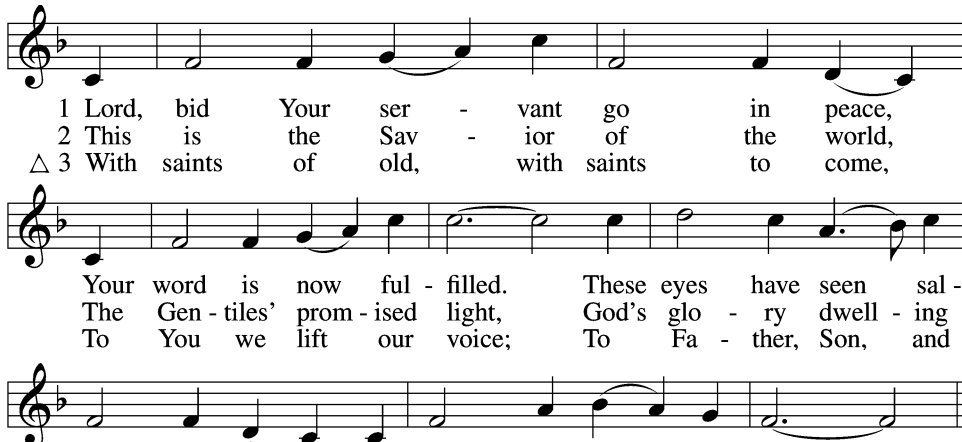
I see him, but not now;
I behold him, but not near:
a star shall come out of Jacob,
and a scepter shall rise out of Israel;

Offering



937 Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

(stand on final stanza)



1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,
 2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,
 △ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,

Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -
 The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing
 To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and

va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.
 in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.
 Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

Text (sts. 1-2): © 1969, 1989 OCP Publications; (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 708390
 Tune: Public domain

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
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -

ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.

Refrain

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

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

Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Postlude

