

Leader: Of the increase of his government and of peace

People: **There will be no end,**

Leader: On the throne of David and over his kingdom,

People: **To establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness**

Leader: From this time forth and forevermore.

People: **The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.**

IN PRAYER

***WE PRAISE OUR GOD**

HYMN OF PRAISE 218

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

***WE CONFESS OUR FAITH**

Westminster Shorter Catechism Q. 23-26

Leader: What offices does Christ fill as our Redeemer?

People: **Christ as our Redeemer fills the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, in his states both of humiliation and exaltation.**

Leader: How does Christ fill the office of a prophet?

People: **Christ fills the office of a prophet in revealing to us by his Word and Spirit the will of God for our complete salvation.**

Leader: How does Christ fill the office of a priest?

People: **Christ fills the office of a priest in his once offering up of himself to God as a sacrifice, to satisfy divine justice and reconcile us to God; and in making constant intercession for us.**

Leader: How does Christ fill the office of a king?

People: **Christ fills the office of a king in making us his willing subjects, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.**

***WE EXALT OUR LORD**

WORSHIP SONGS

*Angels We Have Heard on High/ Glory to God
On Christmas Night All Christians Sing
All Is Well*

WE GREET ONE ANOTHER

DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN TO CHILDREN'S WORSHIP
(4 years old to 1st grade)
CONGREGATIONAL GREETING
WELCOME TO VISITORS

WE SEEK GOD'S FACE

Prayers of God's People

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

OFFERING/CHORAL OFFERTORY (Hymn 215)
HYMNAL CHOIR *While by the Sheep We Watched at Night*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:57-80 (ESV)

SERMON

Benedictus: Zechariah's Song
Advent series: The First Christmas Carols
Dr. Tim Witmer

***WE GO FORTH TO SERVE**

HYMN OF RESPONSE **225** *Once in Royal David's City*
*WORDS OF PEACE
DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN TO MUSIC ROOM AND SUNDAY SCHOOL
HOUR(4 years through 5th grade)
ANNOUNCEMENTS
POSTLUDE

Song Lyrics

218 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story Now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant Light:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations; Ye have seen His natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Saints, before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear;
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising To th' eternal Three in One. Come and
worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Angels We Have Heard on High / Glory to God

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains
Gloria In excelsis Deo, Gloria In excelsis Deo

Shepherds why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song
Gloria In excelsis Deo, Gloria In excelsis Deo

Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest
Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King
Gloria In excelsis Deo, Gloria In excelsis Deo

Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest
Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest

Glory to God

Peace on earth There is hope for everyone
Tell the world That the saving King has come
And His light is here For all who live in darkness
And His love is here For all the broken hearted

Glory to God, Glory to God Glory to God in the highest
Glory to God, Glory to God Glory to God in the highest

Peace on earth There is hope for everyone
Tell the world That the saving King has come
And His light is here For all who live in darkness
And His love is here For all the broken hearted

Glory to God, Glory to God Glory to God in the highest
Glory to God, Glory to God Glory to God in the highest

Jesus, Messiah, the promise fulfilled
The hope of the world born for us
And all who believe Him And all who receive Him
Are children born of God Are children born of God

Glory to God, Glory to God Glory to God in the highest
Glory to God, Glory to God Glory to God in the highest

Glo—ria in excelsis Deo Glo—ria in excelsis Deo

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On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing,
to hear the news the angels bring
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should we on earth be so sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad;
Then why should we on earth be so sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin He set us free,
all for to gain our liberty.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night;
All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night;
Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and for evermore Amen

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All Is Well

All is well, all is well
Angels and men rejoice
For tonight darkness fell
Into the dawn of love's light
Sing alle sing alleluia

All is well, all is well
Let there be peace on earth
Christ is come go and tell
That He is in the manger
Sing alle sing alleluia

All is well, all is well
Lift up your voice and sing
Born is now Emmanuel
Born is our Lord and Savior
Sing alleluia sing alleluia
All is well

CCLI Song # 355008

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225 *Once in Royal David's City*

Once in royal David's city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby,
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall:
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood
he would honor and obey,
love and watch the lowly maiden
in whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
mild, obedient as he.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle,
Is our Lord in heav'n above:
And He leads his children on,
To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when like stars his children crowned
all in white shall wait around.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:57-80 (ESV)

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.⁵⁸ And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.⁵⁹ And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father,⁶⁰ but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.”⁶¹ And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.”⁶² And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called.⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered.⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God.⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea,⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,

⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has visited and redeemed his people
⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us
in the house of his servant David,
⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from
of old,
⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies
and from the hand of all who hate us;
⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers
and to remember his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to
grant us
⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our
enemies, might serve him without fear,
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our
days.

⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins,

⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high

⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.