

O Antiphons
Advent-Christmas Vespers 2021
December 22, 2021

Tonight's Service of Advent Lessons and Carols is based on the Great O Antiphons of Advent. Each lesson is paired with one of seven antiphons sung as antiphons from December 17 to 23. The Antiphons address the Messiah with various titles drawn from the Hebrew scriptures:

December 17 O Sapientia – O Wisdom

December 18 O Adonai – O Lord

December 19 O Radix Jesse – O Root of Jesse

December 20 O Clavis David – O Key of David

December 21 O Oriens – O Dayspring

December 22 O Rex Gentium – O King of the Nations

December 23 O Emmanuel – O God with Us

The "O" Antiphons are a monastic Christian tradition dating back to the 4th Century. The Antiphons are recited during evening prayer, and each carries significant meaning. Each Antiphon calls Jesus a unique title, all of which come from the Old Testament prophecies of Isaiah.

The Latin text of the O Antiphons imbeds an acrostic: the first letter of each of those titles, when read backwards, for the Latin words:

ERO CRAS, which means: "Tomorrow I Come."

Our worship service today features the O Antiphons read one at a time, each followed by a prophetic text of the Old Testament and a corresponding fulfillment text from the New Testament. Each pair of texts is followed by a musical work illuminating its lesson. May the light of Christ shine brightly to all this blessed Advent and Christmas season!

In the coldest, darkest part of winter,
we find ourselves longing for the light.
It is precisely at this point the Son of God
chose to come into the world for the
"Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" John 1:5

As our longing grows for a savior
throughout Advent and all our lives,
tonight holds a special intensity of our longing
to see the Word made flesh all over again.

GATHERING MUSIC**Once in Royal David's City 1, 2, 4****Keri Bash-Piano**

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His

low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
 God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and

ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
 sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He

was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.

Text and tune: Public domain

WELCOME AND INVOCATION*Pastor Aaron Boerst***BLESSING OF THE LIGHT**

Pastor: The Lord is my light and my salvation

All: whom shall I fear? [Psalm 27:1]

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord God, creator of day and night: to you be praise and glory for ever. As darkness falls you renew your promise to reveal among us the light of your presence. By the light of Christ, your living Word, dispel the darkness of our hearts that we may walk as children of light and sing your praise throughout the world.

All: Blessed be God forever.**PROCESSIONAL HYMN OF LIGHT** Joyous Light – Marty Haugen**Keri Bash-Piano***We stand and turn to one another lighting each taper candle, as the pastor enters the sanctuary.*

Joyous light of heav'nly glory, loving glow of God's own face,
 You who sing creation's story, shine on ev'ry land and race.
 Now as evening falls around us, we shall raise our songs to you,
 God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.

BIDDING PRAYER

Pastor: Dear People of God, in the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in the manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of

God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city. And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one forever more. And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, singing...

LORD'S PRAYER [sung to melody of Away in a Manger]

Cross Road

Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name.
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same
By people and angels, Come, Lord, rule alone;
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.

The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, oh lead us, be near;
From evil deliver Your children most dear.

For Yours is the kingdom, o'er all things You rule;
And Yours is the power; our supporter are You;
To You be the glory, we sing loudly again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.

OFFERING

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Cross Road

Come thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee

Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a king
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus," words and music by Charles Wesley, Ken Bible & Rowland Hugh Prichard © 1998 Pilot Point Music. Used By Permission. CCLI License #1530621

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor: God of abundance, we offer you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our

very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

Please Extinguish Your Candles

THE O ANTIPHONS OF ADVENT

ANTHEM

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanza 1)

Keri - Organ

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Tune and text: Public domain

PRAYER

Pastor: O Wisdom from on high, guide Your Church throughout the world to be a demonstration of hope. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to yearn for that coming day when Jesus will reign forever in justice and righteousness, and all creation will be restored. We pray,

People: hear us, coming Lord.

ANTIPHON O Sapientia (Wisdom) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanza 2)

Keri - Organ

2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.

Refrain

Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Tune and text: Public domain

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 11: 2-3

²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

John 1:1-5, 14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

CAROL

Of The Father's Love Begotten LSB 384 (Stanzas 1, 2, 4)

Terrie -Choir

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring

Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER

Pastor: O Lord of might, help us during this Advent season both to look back to those days when our salvation was won in Your death and resurrection and to look forward to the day of Your return, when by Your power You will bring the dead to life and restore all creation. We pray,

People: **hear us, coming Lord.**

ANTIPHON O Adonai (Lord) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanza 3)

Keri-Organ

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.

Refrain
 Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el
 Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Tune and text: Public domain

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 11: 4-5; Isaiah 33:22

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
 and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
 and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
 and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
 and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

²²For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver;
 the LORD is our king; he will save us.

Revelation 1: 4-8

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.⁷ Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

CAROL It Came Upon A Midnight Clear 1, 4 **Cross Road**

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, From heaven’s all gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.

For lo! The days are hastening on, By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years, Shall come the time foretold
When the new heaven and earth shall own The Prince of Peace their King
And the whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

PRAYER

Pastor: O Root of Jesse, bless our homes with Your Presence and keep our families safe from all harm and danger. Be with us that the evil one may have no power over us. We pray,

People: **hear us, coming Lord.**

ANTIPHON O Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanza 4) Keri-Organ

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from
Satan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Tune and text: Public domain

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 11: 1, 10

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Revelation 22: 12-13; 16-17; 20

¹²"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

¹⁶"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

¹⁷The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

²⁰He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

CAROL Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming LSB 1-3

Cross Road

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as prophet's long have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind.
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore to us a Savior
When half spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us
And lightens every load.

REFLECTION ON THE ROOT OF JESSE

PRAYER

Pastor: O Key of David, let Your joy, forgiveness, and peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,

People: hear us, coming Lord.

ANTIPHON O Clavis David (Key of David) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanza 5) Keri-Organ

5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen
wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that
leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.
Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Tune and text: Public domain

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 22:22-25

²²And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. ²³And I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honor to his father's house. ²⁴And they will hang on him the whole honor of his father's house, the offspring and issue, every small vessel, from the cups to all the flagons. ²⁵In that day, declares the LORD of hosts, the peg that was fastened in a secure place will give way, and it will be cut down and fall, and the load that was on it will be cut off, for the LORD has spoken."

Revelation 3:7-11

⁷"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: 'The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

⁸"I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. ⁹Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet and they will learn that I have loved you. ¹⁰Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.

CAROL

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Terrie -Piano

Stanzas 1: Choir

Stanza 2: Men Only

Stanza 3: Women Only

Stanza 4: ALL in unison



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

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PRAYER

Pastor: O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us to enter humbly the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, [*especially those in our congregation. . .*]. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,

People: **hear us, coming Lord.**

ANTIPHON **O Oriens (Dayspring)** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanza 6)

Keri-Organ

6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y
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!

Tune and text: Public domain

FIFTH LESSON

Isaiah 9:2; Isaiah 42:5-7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people on it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ "I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,
⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

Luke 2:25-32

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
 according to your word;
³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation
³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
 and for glory to your people Israel.”

CAROL

For Unto Us a Child is Born

Cross Road

For unto us a Child is born A Son is given A Son is given
 For unto us a Child is born A Son is given A Son is given
 The Messiah Oh to see Him
 To see Him high and lifted up Shining in the light of Your glory
 Pour out Your power and love As we sing Holy Holy Holy
 For unto us a Child is born A Son is given A Son is given
 For unto us a Child is born A Son is given A Son is given
 The Messiah Oh to see Him
 To see Him high and lifted up Shining in the light of Your glory
 Pour out Your power and love As we sing Holy Holy Holy
 Holy Holy Holy Holy Holy Holy
 Holy Holy Holy Holy Holy Holy

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PRAYER

Pastor: O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our
 governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness,
 injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not
 neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless
 those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war.
 Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this
 broken world. We pray,

People: **hear us, coming Lord.**

ANTIPHON O Rex gentium (King of Nations) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanza 7) Keri-Organ

7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the
 hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -
 vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.
Refrain
 Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el
 Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Tune and text: Public domain

SIXTH LESSON

Isaiah 9: 6-7; Isaiah 2:4

⁶For to us a child is born,
 to us a son is given;
 and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
 and his name shall be called
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace
 there will be no end,
 on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
 to establish it and to uphold it
 with justice and with righteousness
 from this time forth and forevermore.
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
 and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
 and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
 and their spears into pruning hooks;
 nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
 neither shall they learn war anymore.

Ephesians 2: 11-16

¹¹Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—
¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the

commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

CAROL Savior of the Nations, Come LSB 332

Keri-Piano

Stanza 1: ALL in unison

Stanza 2: Women Only

Stanza 3: Men Only

Stanza 4: ALL in unison



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
 vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 God was there up - on His throne.
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

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PRAYER

Pastor: O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,

People: **hear us, coming Lord.**

ANTIPHON O Emmanuel (God With Us) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanza 1) **Keri-Organ**

I O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
 cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
 ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
Refrain
 Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el
 Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Tune and text: Public domain

SEVENTH LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-14

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Matthew 1:20-23

²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
 and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us).

HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: The Lord be with you. [2 Timothy 4:22]

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [Colossians 3:1]

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [Psalm 136]

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD [Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25]

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. [1 Cor.11:26]

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. [Revelation 22:20]

DISTRIBUTION

Cross Road

Mary Did You Know

Mary did you know, that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
Mary did you know, that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This Child that you've delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary did you know, that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary did you know, that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand?
Did you know, that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little baby you've kissed the face of God.

Mary did you know? **[Instrumental]**

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again.
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the Lamb.

Mary did you know, that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary did you know, that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
Did you know, that your baby boy was heavens perfect lamb?
This sleeping child your holding, is the great "I AM"?

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Mary's Little Boy Child

Long time ago in Bethlehem
So the Holy Bible says
Mary's boy child Jesus Christ
Was born on Christmas day.

Chorus: Hark now hear the angels sing
New King's born today
And man will live forevermore
Because of Christmas day

While shepherds watched their flocks by night
They saw a bright new shining star
And heard a choir from Heaven sing
The music came from afar **(Chorus)**

Now, Joseph and his wife Mary

Came to Bethlehem that night
They found no place to bare her child
Not a single room was in sight

By and by they find a little nook
In a stable all forlorn
And in a manger cold and dark
Mary's little Boy Child was born **(Chorus twice)**

CLOSING PRAYER

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world. You scatter the shadows before our path, and through your Holy Spirit you lead us into all truth. May we who have been baptized in the ocean of your love, also shine as light in the world, become instruments of your peace, and icons of your presence. For you are our God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

ADVENT BLESSING

Pastor: May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of His blessing and set you free from all sin.

All: Amen.

Pastor: May He whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

All: Amen.

Pastor: May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at His second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

All: Amen.

Pastor: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

All: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending (Stanza one) *Keri -Organ*

1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
Swell the tri - umph of His train:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.

Text and tune: Public domain

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Postlude on HELMSLEY (Instrumental)

Keri -Organ