



THE HOLY FAMILY

Gathering Song

Angels We Have Heard on High



1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the
 4. See him in a man - ger laid Whom the choirs of



o'er the plains, And the moun - tains in re - ply
 strains pro - long? Say what may the tid - ings be
 an - gels sing; Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee
 an - gels praise; Mar - y, Jo - seph, lend your aid,



Ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
 Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song.
 Christ the Lord, the new - born King.
 While our hearts in love we raise.



Gló - ri - a



in ex - cél - sis De - o. Gló -



ri - a in ex - cél - sis De - o.

First Reading - Genesis 15: 1-6; 21:1-3

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying: "Fear not, Abram! I am your shield; I will make your reward very great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what good will your gifts be, if I keep on being childless and have as my heir the steward of my house, Eliezer?" Abram continued, "See, you have given me no offspring, and so one of my servants will be my heir." Then the word of the LORD came to him: "No, that one shall not be your heir; your own issue shall be your heir." The Lord took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be." Abram put his faith in the LORD, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness.

The LORD took note of Sarah as he had said he would; he did for her as he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time that God had stated. Abraham gave the name Isaac to this son of his whom Sarah bore him.

Psalm

Refrain I



Blest are those who love you, hap - py those who



fol - low you, blest are those who seek you, O God.

Refrain II



May the Lord bless us, may the Lord pro -



tect us, all the days, all the days of our life.

Verses

1. Happy all those who fear the Lord, and walk in God's pathway; you will find what you long for: the riches of our God.
2. Your spouse shall be like a fruitful vine in the midst of your home, your children flourish like olive plants rejoicing at your table.
3. May the blessings of God be yours all the days of your life, may the peace and the love of God live always in your heart.

Second Reading - Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Brothers and sisters: By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he received power to generate, even though he was past the normal age --and Sarah herself was sterile-- for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy. So it was that there came forth from one man, himself as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore.

By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac descendants shall bear your name." He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead, and he received Isaac back as a symbol.

Unto Us
a Child is Born



Gospel - Luke 2:22-40

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, They took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord*, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, He took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted —and you yourself a sword will pierce— so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Preparation of Gifts and Altar

Instrumental

Communion



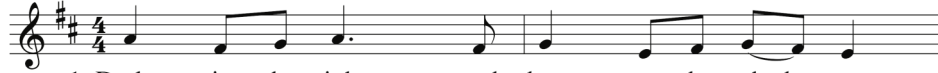
An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

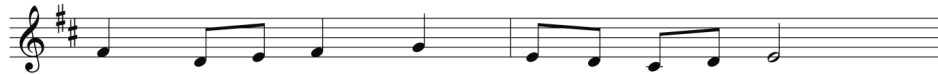
Communion

Sing Alleluia

Verses



1. Dark is the night and deep are the shadows;
2. Who would be-lieve that here in a man-ger
3. Great is the joy of Mar-y, his moth-er.
4. Hope for the poor, re-lease for the cap-tive,



Qui-et the ba-by bathed in lan-tern light.
God comes a-mong us as a ti-ny child?
Great is the joy of Jo-seph by her side.
Love for the out-cast, light for wea-ry eyes;

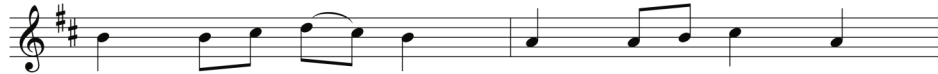


Hushed are the sounds of cat-tle and shep-herds;
See in his eyes the glo-ry of heav-en;
Great is the joy of all those in dark-ness.
Word that brings life, em-brac-ing hu-man-i-ty,



Sweet is the mu-sic the an-gels bring this night.
Hear in his laugh-ter the joy of God on high.
Here lies the Sav-ior so soon to die and rise.
Je-sus, com-pan-ion, be born in-to our lives.

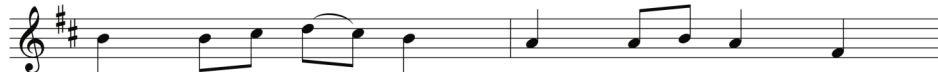
Refrain



Sing al-le-lu-ia, sing al-le-lu-ia.



Wel-come the Sav-ior, the prom-ise of new life.



Sing al-le-lu-ia, sing al-le-lu-ia.



All of cre-a-tion, sing this night.

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St. Michael the Archangel Prayer

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly hosts,
by the power of God, cast into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls. Amen



Sending Forth

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun-tain, O-ver the hills and ev-'ry-where;

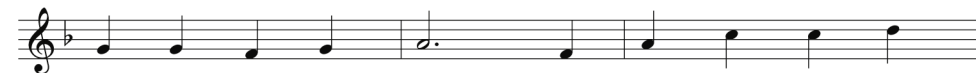


Go tell it on the moun-tain That Je-sus Christ is born!

Verses



1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When,
3. Down in a low-ly man-ger The



si-lent flocks by night, Be-hold through-out the
lo, a-bove the earth Rang out the an-gel
hum-ble Christ was born, And God sent us sal-

D.C.



heav-ens There shone a ho-ly light.
cho-rus That hailed our Sav-ior's birth.
va-tion That bless-ed Christ-mas morn.