

# Lead Us To Your Light, Lord!

2007 Choir and Band Concert  
Morrison Zion Lutheran Church  
December 23, 2007

## PRESERVICE MUSIC (band)

*Christmas Spectacular*  
*Celebrate the Gift*  
*Christmas Couplet*  
*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*  
*Still the First Noel*  
*Christmas Joy*

## Gathering Rite: Lead Us to Your Light

The opening hymns and songs of Christian worship mean to "gather" individual Christians into a worshipping assembly. What the traditional service does with hymns, canticles, and opening liturgy, this Advent gathering rite does with contemporary song and responses.

### LEAD US TO YOUR LIGHT

The choir introduces the refrain. Then the congregation repeats the refrain and sings it again as indicated.



Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark-ness.



Lead us to your light. Come, Je - sus, come.

Lord, we await your coming to our world;  
Bring us the gift of salvation. **refrain**

Lord, you are hope and healing for our world;  
Come, now, and bring us your good news. **refrain**

Come, O come, O come, Emmanuel;  
Come with us on earth here to dwell. **refrain**

Rouse us from sleep, wake us from our slumber;  
Banish the darkness of night. **refrain**

Child of the light and love beyond all telling,  
Fill our hearts with wonder and praise. **refrain**

*Stand*



**GREETING**

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: A - men.

M: The grace of our Lord ✕ Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And al - so with you.

**LORD, HAVE MERCY**

M: The Lord Jesus comes to us and offers his grace and love. It is good for us to repent of our sins and to plead for his mercy.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom because all have turned away from you. Lord, have mercy.

*(echoing the minister)*

C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: You come in Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. Yet we fill our days and lives with busyness. We do not make time for your Word and Sacrament. Christ, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M: You will come in glory with salvation for your people. Make us ready through the blood of Jesus to meet you with uplifted faces. Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: May almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

C: A - men.

**ABSOLUTION**

**M:** The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, he forgives us our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.** *(spoken)*

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**THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

**M:** We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

**C:** **We remember Jesus whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

**M:** We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

**C:** **We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

**M:** Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**C:** **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

*Four Advent candles are lit.*

*Be Seated*

*The Light that is the Life of Men*

**John 1:1-11** John introduces the readers of his Gospel to the Light of the world

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.





**Light of the World** (choir and congregation)

After each verse the antiphon will be sung twice, first by the choir, then repeated by the congregation.

- Choir: 1. In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.  
And the Word became flesh and lived among us,  
and we have seen His glory,  
the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. *(Antiphon) choir, then congregation*
2. What came to being in Him was life and the life was the light of all,  
shining in darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.  
And the Word became flesh and lived among us,  
and we have seen His glory,  
the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. *(Antiphon) choir, then congregation*
3. This is the true light shining on all coming into the world.  
And from His fullness we have all received grace upon grace.  
And the Word became flesh and lived among us,  
and we have seen His glory,  
the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. *(Antiphon) choir, then congregation*

*Sung twice: first by choir,  
congregation joining second time*

Je - sus Christ is the light of the world! The  
light no dark-ness can o - ver - come!

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**Light Lost**

**Genesis 3:1-13** Adam and Eve disobey God and are banished from the Garden

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."  
 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"  
 The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."  
 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"  
 The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

*When Sinners See Their Lost Condition* (congregation)

CW: 32:1,2

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. <b>When sinners see their lost condition<br/>         And feel the pressing load of sin<br/>         And Jesus comes on his blest mission<br/>         To heal the sin-sick heart within,<br/>         All grief must flee before his grace,<br/>         And joy divine will take its place.</b></p> | <p>2. <b>When Jesus enters meek and lowly<br/>         To fill the home with sweetest peace,<br/>         When hearts have felt his blessing holy<br/>         And found from sin complete release,<br/>         Then calm and joy within shall reign,<br/>         And hearts divided love again.</b></p> |
|---|--|

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*Light Promised*

**Isaiah 40:1-5** God comforts his people and urges them to prepare for their redemption

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

*Comfort, Comfort All My People* (congregation)

CW 11:1-3

1. **"Comfort, comfort all my people; Speak of peace," so says our God.  
 "Comfort those who sit in darkness, Groaning from their sorrows' load.  
 Speak to all Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;  
 Tell them that their sins I cover, That their warfare now is over."**

**All their sins our God will pardon, Blotting out each dark misdeed; All that well deserve  
 his anger He no more will see or heed.  
 They have suffered many a day; Now their griefs have passed away.  
 God will change their aching sadness Into ever-springing gladness.**

3. **John the Baptist's voice is crying In the desert far and near,  
 Calling people to repentance For the kingdom now is here.  
 Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;  
 Let the valleys rise to meet him And the hills bow down to greet him.**

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**Jeremiah 23:5-6** God will raise up for David a Righteous Branch

The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.

*Behold, a Branch is Growing* (congregation)

CW 47:1, 4

- 1. **Behold, a Branch is growing Of loveliest form and grace,  
As prophets sang, foreknowing; It springs from Jesse's race  
And bears one little flow'r In midst of coldest winter,  
At deepest midnight hour.**
  
- 4. **This flow'r, so small and tender, With fragrance fills the air;  
His brightness ends the darkness That kept the earth in fear.  
True God and yet true man, He came to save his people  
From earth's dark night of sin.**

**Jeremiah 31:31-34** God promises a new covenant to be written in the hearts of his people

"The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

*Emmanuel (choir)*

*Lloyd Larson*

Emmanuel, Emmanuel!  
 God will come to us one day, Emmanuel!  
 Emmanuel, Emmanuel!  
 Free us with Your love, we pray, Emmanuel!

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.  
 Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
 Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel!  
 God will come to us one day, Emmanuel!

**Isaiah 64:1-9a** God is called upon to come among us and deliver us from our iniquities.

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. Since ancient times no

one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins.

Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be angry beyond measure, O LORD; do not remember our sins forever.

***Come As a King*** (choir)

*Dana Mengel*

Come, O come, holy One, come, descend on wings of love.  
Come and set all Your captive people free.  
Come as warmth, come as light breaking through the clouds of night.  
Come as truth, come as life, come as King!

*Refrain:* Come with grace, come in peace, come to save and to redeem.  
Come in power, come in splendor, come in glory, come as King!

As a child, as a lamb, come to bless our land.  
Come with healing in Your mighty wing.  
Come as brother and friend. Come, the poorest to defend.  
Come as Savior and Lord, come as King!

*Refrain*

**Micah 5:2-4** The one who shall be ruler of Israel will be born in Bethlehem

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

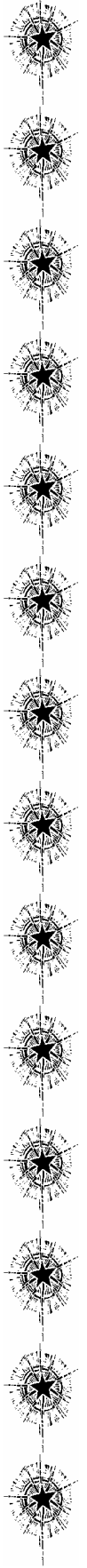
Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

***Bethlehem Processional*** (choir)

*Pepper Choplin*

Come, O come, come to Bethlehem.  
Come, O come to Bethlehem, Join with us to search for Him.  
Prophecy leads to the town where the infant King is found.  
Come look, the star that lights our way fills the air with joy and praise.  
Though the dusty road is long, hope and faith will lead us on.  
See the star is shining bright, filling all the world with light;  
And proclaims across the sky, "Glory be to God on high."  
See the Child of Bethlehem. Bow down and worship Him.  
Gifts of love and praise we bring to the holy infant King.  
Come, O come, O come to Bethlehem. Come, O come.





**Zechariah 9:9-10** The powerful King comes, humble and riding on the foal of a donkey.

Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His rule will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

***Lift Up Your Heads*** (choir)  
*Joseph Martin and Jon Paige*

Lift up your heads, you everlasting doors;  
Open up and let the King of glory come in.

Who is the King of glory?  
The Lord of Hosts!  
He is the King of glory.

Lift up your heads, you everlasting doors;  
Open up and let the King of glory come in.

Alleluia, let us sing to the one eternal King.  
Alleluia, evermore, to the King and Lord of lords.

**Luke 1:26-38** The angel Gabriel announces Jesus' birth to Mary

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

***The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*** (congregation)

**CW 24**

*men* 1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he to meek and lowly Mary,  
"Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!

*men* 2. "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's decree:  
A blessed virgin mother you shall be.  
Your Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,  
Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!



women 3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
"To me be as it pleases God," she said.  
"My soul shall praise and magnify his holy name."  
Most highly favored maiden, Gloria!

all 4. Of her Immanuel, the Christ, was born  
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,  
"Most highly favored maiden." Gloria!

*Text: From The Hymnal 1982. c The Church Pension Fund. Used by permission.*

## *Light Revealed*

### **Luke 2:8-14** Jesus is born in Bethlehem

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

### *Christmastime (choir)*

*Michael W. Smith and Joanna Carlson*

*refrain:* Ring Christmas bells, ring them loud with a message bringing peace on the earth, tidings of good cheer! Come carolers, come and join with the angels singing, "Joy to the world!" Christmastime is here!

Children, gather around and listen, You'll hear the sound of angels filling the sky telling ev'ryone Christmastime is here!

*refrain*

Loved ones close to our hearts, and strangers in lands afar together sharing the joy; Emmanuel! Go, tell the world! He has come to dwell! The time is here!

With one voice, let the world rejoice!

*Refrain*

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*refrain*

Sing gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!





***O Bethlehem*** (choir)

Carl Schalk

O Bethlehem! See your glory shines so brightly, O Bethlehem!  
You are raise up with favor divine.  
You are chosen, yours the favor,  
Chosen of God to cradle the Savior, O Bethlehem!

O Bethlehem! Here at last we see the Promised One, O Bethlehem!  
Let us give praise with joyful hearts.  
He has opened heav'n before us,  
Come let us join the heav'nly chorus, O Bethlehem!

O Bethlehem! Soon comes the cross, the nails, the piercing, O Bethlehem!  
Then the glorious Easter morn,  
Conquering death, its bondage breaking,  
Christ victorious, new life awaking, O Bethlehem!

O Bethlehem! Now with the shepherds we, too, worship, O Bethlehem!  
He who made the heav'n and earth,  
O wondrous birth, the Lord of all,  
Born a child in manger stall, O Bethlehem!

***Silent Night*** (choir and congregation)

Hal Hopson

choir: Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

choir Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
Alles schlaft, einsam wacht  
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe mit lockigem Haar,  
Schlaf im himmlischer Ruh',  
Schlaf imhimmlischer Ruh'.

choir: Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

choir/cong. **Silent night, holy night!**  
**Wondrous star, lend thy light;**  
**With the angels let us sing,**  
**Alleluia to our King;**  
**Christ the Savior is born,**  
**Christ the Savior is born.**

***Glory To God The Angels Sing*** (choir)

Kessel and Wacker

Low in a humble manger, Little Lord Jesus lay,  
Watched by the virgin mother, there on a bed of hay;  
Keeping her loving vigil, far from the worldly throngs,  
When thru the night came ringing Glorious angel songs.

Refrain: Glory to God, the angels sing,  
Praises to Christ, the newborn King, Peace be on earth, goodwill to men,  
Hear we the angels sing again, Glory to God, the angels sing;  
Praises to Christ, the newborn King,  
Peace be on earth, goodwill to men,  
Goodwill to men.

Little the loving mother, dreamed of its meaning then,  
How He should die on Calv'ry, die for the sins of men;  
Down thru the weary ages, out from that manger bed,  
Streams all the light of heaven, soon o'er the world to spread.

*Refrain*

*Refrain*

***Spirit of Christmas*** (choir, band, and congregaiton)

*Jacob de Haan*

choir:                    Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,  
The little Lord Jesus say down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay  
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

choir and congregation: **The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they, lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.**

choir:                    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.

choir:                    O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him,  
Born the King of angels;  
O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

choir and congregation: **Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all ye nations, fise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"**



