



P: "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."
³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.
⁴ 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. Micah 5:2-4

Opening Hymn

O come all Ye Faithful
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.

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens
Of heaven above;
Glory to God,
Glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be
All glory given;
Son of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord.
Songwriter: Paul Bateman

Kauma

P. †Glory be to the Father our Creator, to the Son our Redeemer and to the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us.

C. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

P. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

C. Blessed is He that has come and is to come again in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P. Holy art thou, O God.

C. Holy art thou, Almighty Lord.

P. Holy art thou, Immortal Lord.

C. O Lord, the Messiah who was crucified for us † have mercy on us. **(To be repeated thrice)**

P. O Lord, have mercy on us.

C. O Lord, have mercy on us and bless us.

P. O Lord, accept our prayers and worship and have mercy on us.

C. Glory be to you, O God.

P. Glory be to you, O Creator.

C. Glory be to you, O King the Messiah; who has mercy on us sinners. Bless us, O Lord.

(Let us sing together the prayer that Jesus taught us)

**All: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is done in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, Forever. Amen.

(Cong. to be seated)

Lesson 1 Isaiah 7:10-17

Lesson 2 1Peter 3:8-16

Meditation

L: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace . . ."
(Isaiah 9:6-7).

Each of these descriptions gives us a different aspect of the work that God wants to do in our lives.

His name is Wonderful. This word comes from the root word "wonder," which means "a sense of awe." Jesus wants to bring a sense of awe and wonder to our lives. No longer do we have to look to the cheap substitutes this world offers to bring fulfillment, because Jesus Christ makes life wonderful.

His name is Counselor. Did you know that God Almighty, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father wants to give you His personal counsel and direction? As Psalms 73:24 says, "You will guide me with Your counsel, and afterward receive me into glory." No longer do you have to be baffled by the problems you face, because with Christ as your Counselor, you can know that God will reveal His will to you.

His name is Mighty God. This means that Jesus has unlimited power for you as you encounter the demands of life. There are times when you probably have thought that it was very hard to live the Christian life. In fact, I think it is impossible to be a Christian apart from the help of the Holy Spirit. I am so thankful that the Mighty God is there for me to give me the strength to do what He wants me to.

Next, He is called **the Everlasting Father**. Because Christ came to die on the cross and pay for your sins and rise again from the dead, you have an Everlasting Father, One who will be with you forever. He will never forget about you. He will always be there to guide and help you through life.

His name is the Prince of Peace. Certainly we live in frightening times. We look at our world and see so many things that have gone wrong. How much we need peace in our lives. If you look at the wars and problems we face today, they are, for the most part, the result of people who are breaking God's commandments. But God will bring peace to you, the person who is well-pleasing to Him.

Greg Laurie

<http://www.oneplace.com/ministries/a-new-beginning/read/articles/whats-in-a-name-8589.html>

L: A Saviour is born

L: Oh Infant Jesus, Son of our Lord
Who spreads His love and is all adored
You brightened the world on the day of your birth
And many years later, saved people on earth.

Many people had seen and followed the star
They came from all over, some traveled afar
All came to praise You, the young and the old
Some came with gifts, like frankincense and gold

***C: We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star***

***O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy Perfect Light***

***Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and Sacrifice
Alleluia, Alleluia
Earth to heav'n replies***

John Henry Hopkins, Jr. in 185

L: All those who looked in the manger and saw
The little Lord Jesus were filled with great awe
The Blessed Mother Mary gave birth to God's Son
And Joseph raised him, as God would have done.

As He lay sleeping, on His small bed of hay
The people all rejoiced, He has come, praise the day
The shepherds, the angels, and the wise men three
All came to gaze on the Saviour to be

***C: Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.***

***The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.***

***Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.***
attributed to John Thomas McFarland, 1906

L: No one who came to the infant yet knew
All the wonderful miracles this child would do
He would heal the sick, and give hope to the poor
He would give all He had to His people and more

The Light of the World, the Savior is here
He will teach us and guide us and we'll have no fear
He will bring us a message, the Word from above
And that message is simple, the message is love

***C: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,***

And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

***Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.***

L: Far up in Heaven, the joy of Christ rang
The angels were smiling and happy souls sang
Come hear the good news, they said with great joy
Praise our dear Lord and His new baby boy

God gave Him a message, His one only Son
To save all his people, to make them as one
He was sent down to help us and show us the way
So we may be part of God's Kingdom someday

***C: 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.***

***Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.***

L: The Infant Jesus came as God's Eternal Light
A light that shines forever, so clear and so bright
I will follow that light till the end of my days
I will worship my God and give him my praise

I celebrate His birthday at Christmas each year
A day that fills people with laughter and cheer
The presents don't matter, but I know what does,
My Jesus, who will be, is now, and who was.

By Faith Writer
<http://amazingcatechists.com/author/pc/>

***C: What Child is this, who laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ, the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!***

**Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here,
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through
The cross be borne for me, for you:
Hail, Hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant king to own him:
The King of kings, salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, Raise the song on high,
The Virgin sings a lullaby.
Joy, Joy, for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

William Chatterton, 1865

Cong to stand

Prayer of Confession

*Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy*

P: In this season of Christmas, we come together before God confessing our sins and weakness.

C: We confess:

the ways in which we have been caught up in the celebrations, and turned away from Your Spirit of Peace;

the times we have focused so much on our own lives and desires, that we have neglected the voices of your children who cry out for Justice;

in our desire to make the season perfect, we have turned away from the hurting people and broken places in our world in need of Healing;

the times we have dismissed Christmas as just another festival, and have stubbornly closed our hearts to your amazing gift of Love.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, Word made Flesh, our Savior and King, hear us as we humbly pray, Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. Amen.

*Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy*

P: May God Almighty be compassionate to us as we confess our failures and weaknesses and may He strengthen us to walk in His ways and be His example in our everyday life. Amen.

Gospel Reading

P: †Peace be with you all.

C: May the Lord make us all worthy to listen to His Word.

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which proclaims life and salvation to the world as recorded by Matthew 1:18-23

C: Blessed is He that has come and will come again. Praise to the Father who sent him for our Salvation. May His blessings be ever upon us.

P: In the days of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, the Word of life, God incarnate of the blessed Virgin Mary, it happened in this way.

C: So we believe and affirm.

(After reading the Gospel, the priest says, †'Peace be with you all')

C: We thank you, Lord, that you have given us your gospel which is indeed the light of the world, that we may be drawn closer to you through the living words from your gospel which we have now heard.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in the one true God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all world; Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. He was crucified † also for us in the days of Pontius Pilate; suffered and died and was buried. The third day He rose again, by His Father's holy will, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead and of His kingdom there will be no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets and the apostles. We believe in one Holy Catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the new life of the world to come. Amen.

(Cong. to be seated)

Birthday, Wedding Anniversary & Thanksgiving

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,

And close the path to misery.

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,
In ancient times did'st give the Law,
In cloud, and majesty and awe.

(Author: unknown; Translated into English by: John Mason Neale in 1851)

Offertory

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

Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Written by Charles Wesley, Music Felix Mendelssohn

MESSAGE

Closing Prayer

P: Jesus, the Light of the World, thank you for being born among us.

C: Dear Lord, don't let us miss You this Christmas season. Help us to understand our traditions and reform our activities so we can focus our celebration on Your birth. Thank You for being the Prince of Peace. Thank You for the simple but life-changing message of Your love for us.

As we celebrate your birth may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart. May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

Prayer and Benediction

P: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:6-7

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the wise men, and the peace of the Christ child. May the Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. Amen

Doxology and Kiss of peace

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining.
Till He appeared and the Soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother.
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O Praise his name for ever,
His power and glory ever more proclaim!
His power and glory ever more proclaim!

Written by Placide Cappeau de Roquemaure in 1847.
Music - Adolphe Charles Adams

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The Priest and Santa

The bearded man all filled and happy
Dressed in bright red, stomping his might.
The priest was dressed in a faded white,
Worry creased forehead, pockets all empty.

They set out one morn, each with a bag,
One was full and laden, the other was bare.
One had joy, the other to fill with what's spare.
Want and woe held together in a cloth rag.

And everywhere people were most eager
To grab the good and dump their bad
But that's the truth of all man, though sad
To seize the best and give off their meagre.

At the end of the day they met down the path,
And sat down silently beside for a long while,
Emptied of happiness, filled with man's whine,
To be remembered only when want again starts.

Said the priest 'We've done our best anyway,
Hope there's still some good cheer left in you'
Santa slowly replied 'And glad tidings to you too.
I still worry, most of them think it's my birthday'
Dann Thomas

Primrose Mar Thoma Church Choir- Dec 2016