

# THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 25, 2012

## *Christmas Day Feasting*

### GREETING

Leader: Alleluia!

**All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**

Leader: Alleluia!

### PRAYER

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### THE PSALTER LESSON

Psalm 96

O sing unto the Lord a new song:

**sing unto the Lord, all the earth.**

Sing unto the Lord, bless his name;

**shew forth his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the heathen,

**his wonders among all people.**

For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised:

**he is to be feared above all gods.**

For all the gods of the nations are idols:

**but the Lord made the heavens.**

Honour and majesty are before him:

**strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

Give unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people,

**give unto the Lord glory and strength.**

Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name:

**bring an offering, and come into his courts.**

O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:

**fear before him, all the earth.**

Say among the heathen that the Lord reigneth:

**the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously.**

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

**let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof.**

Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein:

**then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord:**

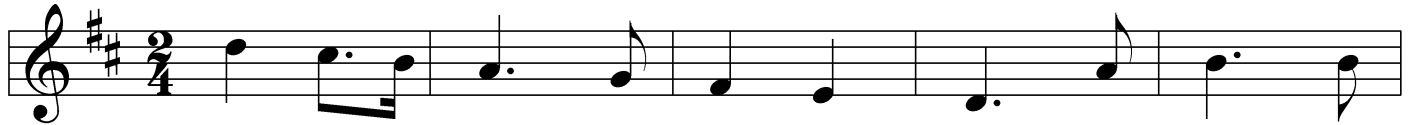
For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth:

**he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.**

CAROL

Psalm 98, Isaac Watts, 1719

George Frideric Handel, 1742



1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re -  
2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their  
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the



ceive her King: let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

## THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## CAROL

John Francis Wade, 1751

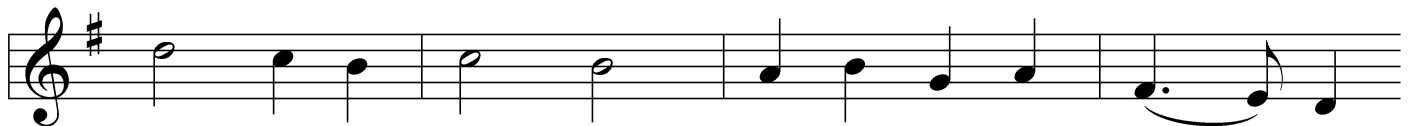
J. F. Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,  
2. God of God, Light of Light;  
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing:



O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
lo, he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove;  
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n;



come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
ver - y God, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted;  
glo - ry to God in the high - est;  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

## THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:1-14

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise be to you, O Christ.

## CAROL

Charles Wesley, 1739, 1753

Felix Mendelssohn, 1840



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!  
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



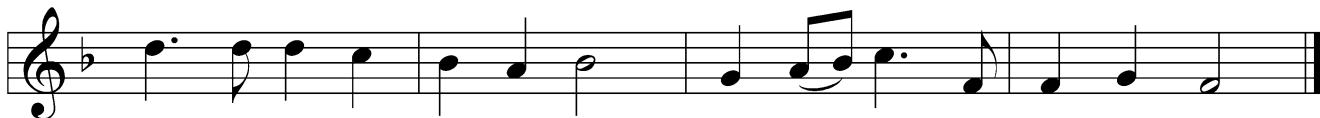
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - ciled!"  
Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

## BENEDICTION

Now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all, evermore.  
Amen.