

Holy Trinity Lutheran School Christmas Program 2020

Jesus Is the Light

By Rebecca M. Bishop

Preservice Music – Piano students of Rachelle Swank

Bailey- Silent Night

Evan - Jolly Old St. Nicholas

Lily - It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, Joy To the World

Natalie - He Is Born, The Holy Child

Russell -- Away in a Manger, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Silent Night

Maria -- Angels We Have Heard on High

Brianna -- Oh Come All Ye Faithful

Brooklyn - We Wish You a Merry Christmas

Cal -- Oh Little Town of Bethlehem, Oh Come all Ye Faithful

Madison - Joy to the World

Prayer (Pastor)

Lord God, heavenly Father, by your Word you made the light to shine in the darkness at the beginning of time. You sent that Word, your Son, Jesus, to shine in this sin-darkened world. You brought us into the light of your Son, saving us from our sins. You lead us along the path of righteousness to the glory of heaven. Receive our praises as we kneel in faith before the manger-bed of our newborn Savior. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Song: A Holy Light

A holy light shines from a stable upon the hillside.
Deep in the night the shadows flee from the dawn of heav'n;
This early morn the Son of God is born

And beaming bright across the sky gleam a thousand angels.
Within their song the Word reveals what was long foretold:
The Son is giv'n for you – God's peace from heav'n.

Shining starlight pierces the ages;
Hope from heaven calls to all mankind:
"Bask in the warmth of his grace,
And see forgiveness in the Savior's face

Here in the night, where angels sing out the wondrous story,
Here in the hay the Lord reveals his Son.
He is the light! Jesus is the Promised One!
This Wondrous night is born a holy light.

Part #1: People Are Lost In the Darkness

It is hard to think about Christmas as a dark and lonely time, but for many people it is just that. The lights of the trees and the music in the air mean nothing to them. The hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations darken the holiday. When these people look around, they have a hard time finding the true meaning of Christmas.

Even for you and me, the rush of Christmas may cause the real light of Christmas to become dim. We may even lose sight of the light and give way to the darkness. Like everyone in this world, we walk in the darkness of sin.

Sin is everywhere. It causes us to hate and hurt each other. It causes disease and war. It causes families to split apart at the seams. Eventually, it will cause each of us to die. Sin makes us all stumble in darkness. Isaiah wrote it this way:

Grades 6-8: For our offenses are many in your sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our iniquities: rebellion and treachery against the Lord, turning our backs on our God. (Isaiah 59: 12,13)

Sin affects all people of all times. No one can find the way to God, because we are all sinners. God's Word tells us:

Grades K-2: For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 6:23)

Grades K-2: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. (1 John 1:8)

Sinners even lose the darkness and hide from the light. Jesus tells us:

Grades 3-5: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. (John 3:19,20)

We all find ourselves in the darkness of sin, hiding from God's light. Let us join together in confessing our sins to God:

Grades K-8: "Emmanuel Will Come"

We wait, we hope, we long for the Messiah!

We wait, we hope, we long for the King.

1. Open the gates to the city, prepare a way for the Lord.
Emmanuel will save us! Emmanuel will come!
2. Lift up your heart, for the Light will come. Lift up your heart to the Lord.
Emmanuel will save us! Emmanuel will come.

Waiting, hoping, longing for the King. Waiting, hoping, longing for the King.

3. Make a path in the wilderness, make a way for the Lord.
Emmanuel will save us! Emmanuel will come.

Part #2: The Light Comes Into the Darkness

Tonight we celebrate Jesus' birth. Before the beginning of time, God planned to send his one and only Son. Jesus would come from heaven to make his home in the darkness among the lost.

The light of heaven had been promised many times before he actually came to earth. These prophecies gave a glimmer of light to God's ancient people. The prophet Isaiah wrote about this promised child.

Grades K-2: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. (Isaiah 9:2)

Grades 3-5: 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. (Isaiah 9:6)

Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, prophesied several months before the birth of the coming Savior.

Grades 6-8: The rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace."
(Luke 1:78,79)

Let us recall how our God sent the light into this dark world. Hear us as we read from the gospel of Luke chapter 2.

Grades K-2: In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. (Luke 2:1-7)

Grades K-8: "Here in the Dark"

1. Into darkness, into shadows, into gloom so dark and deep
Came the Son of God the Father; as a babe we watch him sleep
Baby Jesus, Son of heaven, shine your love so true!
Here in the dark the only light is you.
2. Into darkness, into shadows, to the world the Savior came
Hearts were waiting on the promise life would never be the same.
Light would shine in hearts so blinded; love would come to be
Here in the dark the Baby Jesus see
3. Brightened darkness, fleeing shadows greet the dawning of the day!
Watch in wonder, watch in silence; Jesus came to be the way.
Here the promise of the ages; go to see the stall!
Here in the dark he came to save us all.

Part #3: God Sends the Christmas Lights

Christmas lights are a part of our Christmas celebration. Little children know that Christmas is coming when the lights begin to shine in people's houses and yards. God himself adorned the heavens with his own Christmas lights on that first Christmas long ago. The Christmas lights God used were the splendor of his own glory and the glory of his holy angels.

Grades 3-8: 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 the babe wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:8-12)

Grades K-8: 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." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. (Luke 2:13-16)

The shepherds believed the words of the angels and found everything they had said to be true. They were the first to witness the light of the world that God had sent. With their eyes they saw the baby Jesus. With their heads they saw their Savior.

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| Grades K-2: | Glory beaming from above, Angels singing in the night; Come and see the baby small Worship here this Christmas night; | Shining with the Father's love. What a bright and wondrous sight Who has come to save us all Baby Jesus is the light. |
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Grades PreK-2: "Away in a Manger"

1. Away in a manger no crib for a 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.
2. The cattle are lowing the baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.
3. Be near me Lord Jesus I ask you to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And take us to heaven, to live with you there.

The next Christmas light God sent was a star that appeared in the sky. It was seen by Magi, or wise men, in a far eastern country. These men knew that the promise of God's saving light was meant for peoples of all races and ages. The wise men went on a journey to follow the star so that they could worship God's promised light, the baby Jesus. Angels gleaming with God's glory; a special star in the sky – these were the first Christmas lights. They revealed the light sent from the Father – his one and only Son.

K-8: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

- 1. Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the new born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With th’ angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the new born King!”**

Part #4: We Too Can Become Lights

The excitement of seeing the holy light of the Savior sent from heaven was evident from the very first night of his birth. We especially see the excitement in the actions of the shepherds after they had seen the baby in the manger.

Grades 3-5: When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. (Luke 2:17-18)

Grades K-2: The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. (Luke 2:20)

Like the shepherds, we have heard what God has said concerning this child. Jesus became a man. He lived a holy life. He died to pay the price for our sins. And he rose from the dead and ascended to glory to rule forever. Everything in Jesus' life happened just as the Scriptures promised! Jesus proclaimed himself to be the light for all to follow. John writes:

Grades 6-8: When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)

Grades 6-8: I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. (John 12:46)

The greatest gift of Jesus' light is our redemption from sin and death. Even when we were lost in the darkness of sin, God rescued us. Jesus told this most clearly to Nicodemus when he said:

Grades K-2: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Believers in Jesus not only enjoy the brilliant light of Jesus, they also become

lights. By bringing us to faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit makes us lights. We shine in this world of darkness so that we can point to the true light of the Savior. The Old Testament prophet Isaiah writes:

Grades 3-5: “I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will keep you and will make you to be a light for the Gentiles. (Isaiah 42:6)

Jesus himself tell us:

Grades K-2: You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Matthew 5:14

Grades 6-8: Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. Matthew 5:15

Grades 3-5: In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

Tonight, we have seen the light of the Savior, Jesus Christ. He truly is the promised light from God. And now he makes us lights in this dark world. Through our words and actions, many will see God’s holy light, believe in him, and be saved.

K-8: “Joy to the World”

- 1. 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.**

Prayer (spoken by Pastor)

Shine forth, dear Jesus, light of the world, on all who walk in the darkness. Grant us your grace to be your torchbearers, telling the world of your love. Open the eyes of all to see your light and follow you to eternal glory. We ask this for your love’s sake, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

The grace of your Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen

Song: "Birthday of a King the King" (Hillsong Worship)

We just came to celebrate the birthday of a King.
And we just came to lift our hands and let our voices sing,

Hallelujah to the Christ! Hallelujah we proclaim!
For a Savior was born in Bethlehem and Jesus is His name.
King Jesus is his name!

We just came to celebrate a little baby's birth!
And we just came to celebrate Messiah come to earth!

Hallelujah to the Christ! Hallelujah we proclaim!
For a Savior was born in Bethlehem and Jesus is His name.
King Jesus is his name!

We sing, Worthy! Worthy! Worthy Christ the Lord!
Worthy! Worthy! Now and evermore!

Hallelujah to the Christ! Hallelujah we proclaim!
For a Savior was born in Bethlehem and Jesus is His name.
King Jesus is his name!

We sing, Holy! Holy! Holy to the King!
Holy! Holy! Hosana now we sing!

Hallelujah to the Christ! Hallelujah we proclaim!
For a Savior was born in Bethlehem and Jesus is His name.
King Jesus is his name!