

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF THE CHRIST

A Savior has been born for us, the Messiah and Lord.

Luke 2: 11



**Let us dance with delight in the Lord
and let our hearts be filled with rejoicing,
for eternal salvation has appeared on the earth.**



**Let us remember that the God we have longed for,
the Savior that has been promised is in our midst.
Glory to God in the highest and peace
to all men and women of good will.**



**This day Christ is born;
This day the Savior has appeared;
This day angels are singing on earth,
archangels are rejoicing;
This day the just are glad and say:
Glory to God in the highest, alleluia!**

**You Who are Holy,
You Who wished to be born in the midst of our sins
the better to pardon us,
We beg You... Lord have mercy.**

**You Who are Strong,
You Who wished to be born weak as a child in order
To give us strength,
We beg You...Christ have mercy.**

**You Who are Immortal,
You Who have to put on a body to die
In order to give us immortality,
We beg You...Lord have mercy.**

**Holy God, strong God, immortal God,
Give us the peace of heaven to our earth,
And open the door of Your mercy
To the beggars of Your love**

***Because of His boundless love, Jesus became what we are
that He might make us to be what He is.***

Saint Irenaeus – Third century

HYMN

**Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As prophets long have sung.
It came a flow'ret bright
Amid the cold of winter
When half spent was the night.**

**Isaiah 'twas foretold it
The rose I have in mind.
With Mary we behold it
The Virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore to us a Savior
When half spent was the night.
Sixteenth century**

SCRIPTURE John 1: 1-5,9-14

***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the
Word was God.***

He was in the beginning with God.

***All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be.
What came to be***

***through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race;
the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the
world did not know him.***

He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him.

***But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of
God, to those who believe in his name,
who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by
a man's decision but of God.***

***And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we
saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and
truth.***

REFLECTION Nathan Mitchell

Christmas calls a community back to its origins by remembering Jesus' own beginnings as a human child, a prophet of God's reign, a judgment on the world and its projects. What we celebrate during this season is not primarily birthday, but the beginning of a decisive new phase in the tempestuous history of God's hunger for human companions. The social concerns of the season are thus rooted in Jesus' proclamation of God's reign; the renunciation of patterns that oppress others and the formation of a new human community that voluntarily embraces those renunciations. It is an Adult Christ that the community encounters during the Advent and Christmas seasons: a Risen Lord Who invites sinful people to become church. Christmas does not ask us to pretend that we were back in Bethlehem, kneeling before a crib; it asks us to recognize that the wood of the crib became the wood of the cross.

RESPONSE

Christ is born:

Give Him glory!

Christ has come down from heaven:

Receive Him!

Christ is now on earth:

Exalt Him!

O you earth:

Sing to the Lord!

O you nations:

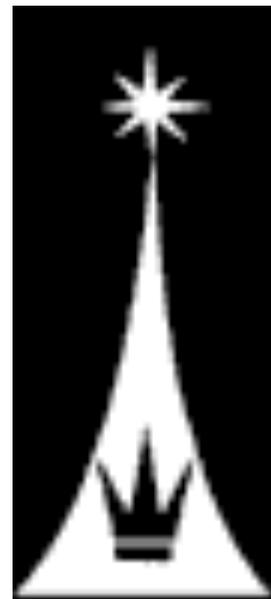
Praise Him in joy for He has been glorified!

Orthodox Christmas Liturgy

**O Savior of our fallen race,
O brightness of the Father's face,
O Son Who shared the Father's might
Before the world knew day or night.**

**O Jesus, very Light of light,
Our constant Star in sin's deep night:
Now hear the prayer Your people pray
Through the world this holy day.**

**Remember, Lord of Life and Grace,
How once to save our fallen race,
You put our human vesture on
And came to us as Mary's Son.**



**Today, as year by year its light
Bathes all the world in radiance bright,
One precious truth outshines the sun;
Salvation comes from You alone.**

**And we are jubilant today,
For You have washed our guilt away.
Oh, hear the glad new song we sing
On this, the great day of our King!**

**O Christ, Redeemer virgin-born,
Let songs of praise Your name adorn,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore. Amen.
Sixth century Vesper hymn**

A LITANY

**Jesus, Son of the Living God, Splendor of the Father, Light Eternal, King
of Glory, Sun of Justice, Born of the Virgin Mary...
Glory to You, O Lord!**

**Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, Strong Lord, Eternal God, Prince of
Peace...
Glory to You, O Lord!**

**Jesus, most powerful, patient, obedient, gentle and humble of heart,
loving of all those who are pure in heart...
Glory to You, O Lord!**

**Jesus, God of Peace, Source of Life, Pattern of Holiness, Friend of All,
Our God, Our Refuge...
Glory to You, O Lord!**

**Jesus, Brother of the Poor, Treasure of the Faithful, Good Shepherd,
True Light, Inexhaustible Wisdom, Boundless Love, Our Way and Our
Life...
Glory to You, O Lord!**

**Jesus, Joy of the Angels, King of the Patriarchs, Master of the Apostles,
Teacher of the Evangelists, Strength of the Martyrs, Light of Every
Witness to the Truth, Crown of All the Saints...
Glory to You, O Lord!
Taize Common Prayer**

INTERCESSIONS

In the beginning was the WORD and the WORD was GOD Who became flesh and dwells among us this day. Christ shall be called WONDERDFUL. Christ shall be called PEACE.

On this day, new joy entered our world;

-may we try by our lives to share joy with others each day.

On this day, fresh hope entered our world;

-may we bring hope to those who are heavily burdened.

On this day, love was visible in a child;

-may we show our love for others in concrete ways of friendship and service.

On this day, the promise of peace on earth was proclaimed;

-may we be lovers of peace and demonstrate this love by reflective responses to life's challenges and trials.

LET US PRAY:

**All powerful and unseen God,
the coming of Your Light into our world
has made the darkness vanish.
Teach us to proclaim the birth of Your Son, Jesus,
with hope and joy,
realizing that in giving us Your Son,
You gave us everything. Amen.**

HYMN

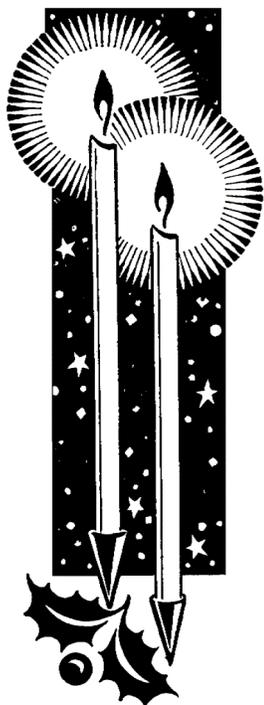
**O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels.
O come, let us adore Him. (3X)
Christ the Lord! .**

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, In the highest;
Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesu, to Thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing**



Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
help us to see the face of Christ in all of our youth.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!



*May the Light of Christ
shine brightly in your life.*