

Psalm 96

God called to us from age to age through messengers and prophets,
When we would not our hearts give way, the Word-made-flesh God sent us.
**This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

O Holy God of power and might! **Hosanna in excelsis!**
Blessed be the one who in your name comes! **Hosanna in the highest!**
**This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

The Word-made-flesh, Emmanuel; God, come to live among us!
He preached good news: the kingdom come! A light shone in the darkness.
**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.**

And on the night he was betrayed, Christ took the bread and broke it.
Thanking God, he shared this gift. "Remember, when you eat it!"
**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.**

He took the cup and raised it up. "My life I pour out for you.
From sin, set free! Remember me! We covenant anew."
**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.**

Pour out your Spirit, Holy God, upon these gifts, and bless them.
Make them for us the Bread of Life, the Cup of our Salvation!
**Raise, raise the song on high! The Virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

Prayer after Communion is taken:

**Thank God for Holy Mystery; Body of Christ; the gift of life!
As we depart, let us take heart: God's light will lead us always!
Raise, raise the song on high! The Virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary!**

¹ O sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

² **Sing to the LORD; bless God's name;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³ Declare the Lord's glory among the nations,
the Lord's marvelous works among all the peoples.

⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;
to be feared above all gods.**

⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.

⁶ **Honor and majesty are before the Lord;
in whose sanctuary are strength and beauty.**

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;
bring an offering, and come into the courts of the Lord.**

⁹ Worship the LORD in holy splendor;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

¹⁰ Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!
**The Lord has established the world;
it shall never be moved.**

The Lord will judge the peoples with equity."

¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar and all that fills it;

¹² let the field exult and everything in it.

**Then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy
¹³ before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.
The Lord will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with his truth.**

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness
Have seen a great light;
Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,
Upon them a light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation
And ^[a]increased its joy;
They rejoice before You
According to the joy of harvest,
As *men* rejoice when they divide the spoil.

⁴For You have broken the yoke of his burden
And the staff of his shoulder,
The rod of his oppressor,
As in the day of Midian.

⁵For every warrior's ^[b]sandal from the noisy battle,
And garments rolled in blood,
Will be used for burning *and* fuel ^[c]of fire.

⁶For 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, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the increase of *His* government and peace
There will be no end,
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice
From that time forward, even forever.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Luke 2:1-20

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. ⁴Joseph also went up from

Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. ⁶So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. ⁷And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. ⁸Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" ¹⁵So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. ¹⁸And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

A Sung Communion Liturgy for Christmas Eve

Lift up your hearts unto the Lord. Sing unto God your praises.
We gather on this holy night. We gather at this table.

**Lift, lift your hearts up high! Sing praise to God, and glorify!
Praise, praise, the Prince of Peace, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

God breathed in us the breath of life. God gave the gift of Eden.
We turned away and sin was born; We sought for greener gardens.
**Lift, lift your hearts up high! Sing praise to God, and glorify!
Praise, praise, the Prince of Peace, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**