



Christmas FOR YOU

The Higher Things Christmas Program

Cast

Mary
Joseph
Shepherds
Sheep
Angels
Wisemen

Speakers 1-20

Hymns

LSB 357 O Come, O Come Emmanuel
V. 1, 4, 5, 6

LSB 993 My Soul Rejoices (Mary's Magnificat)

LSB 332 Savior of the Nations, Come
V. 1, 2, 3

LSB 364 Away in a Manger
V. 1, 4, 5, 6

LSB 364 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (the
Angels and Shepherds Hymn)
V. 1-3, 8, 15

LSB 387 Joy to the World
(V. 1-Kids Only)

Notes:

- 1) While the Speaker sections are numbered, multiple sections of text may be given to the same speaker depending on the number of participants.
- 2) Costumes are encouraged for the biblical characters in this pageant to facilitate immersive storytelling that best suits each individual church's needs.

- 3) Blocking notes are suggestions and can be modified to best fit each individual church's needs.
- 4) All Hymns are from The Lutheran Service Book (Copyright 2006 by CPH) and may all be sung or some omitted as time allows.
- 5) All Scripture references come from the Lutheran Study Bible (ESV).
- 6) Sections labeled (Group) may be spoken by the speakers or by all participants in the pageant.

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Written by Paige Rebber



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Script

Opening Hymn 357: O Come, O Come Emmanuel v. 1, 4, 5, 6

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. [Refrain]
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

4. O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. [Refrain]

5. O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. [Refrain]

6. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. [Refrain]

[Speakers 1-4 enter as hymn ends]

Speaker 1

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

(Luke 1: 26-29)

Speaker 2

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

(Luke 1:30-33)



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Speaker 3

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God... And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

(Luke 1:34-35; 38)

Speaker 4

Thus, the Savior of the world was conceived. He who was and is, and is to come. This is the one who was foretold in the first gospel promise: “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” This is the one who has come to take away the sins of the world.

(Revelation 4:8b; Genesis 3:15)

Speakers 1-4 (Group)

Mary is to bear a Son, a Savior; come for everyone.
Through death, he will redeem the world, and Satan’s grasp will be unfurled.
For you!

[Speakers exit as hymn starts]

Hymn 933: My Soul Rejoices (Mary’s Magnificat)

1. My soul rejoices, My spirit voices— Sing the greatness of the Lord!
For God my Savior Has shown me favor— Sing the greatness of the Lord!
With praise and blessing, Join in confessing God, who is solely Mighty and holy—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
His mercy surely Shall rest securely On all who fear Him, Love and revere Him—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
2. His arm now baring, His strength declaring— Sing the greatness of the Lord!
The proud He scatters, Their rule He shatters— Sing the greatness of the Lord!
Oppression halted; The meek exalted. Full are the hungry; Empty, the wealthy—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
Here is the token All that was spoken To Abr’ham’s offspring God is fulfilling—
O sing the Greatness of God the Lord!

[Speakers 5-8 enter as hymn ends]

Speaker 5

When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

(Matthew 1:18b-19)



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Speaker 6

But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”
(Matthew 1:20-21)

Speaker 7

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.
(Matthew 1:22-24a)

Speaker 8

The declaration of the angel to Joseph promises great hope in the Messiah. This Messiah, spoken about by Isaiah, is the one who will suffer and die to save the world. “He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”
(Isaiah 53:3)

Speakers 5-8 (Group)

Joseph took the angel’s word. He had to trust in what he heard.
Immanuel, the one to die, to bring us glory from on high.
For you!

[Speakers exit as hymn starts]

Hymn 332: Savior of the Nations, Come v. 1, 2, 3

1. Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.
2. Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring pure and fresh.
3. Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown;
God was there upon His throne.



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[Speakers 9-11 enter as hymn ends]

[While Speaker 9 is speaking, Mary and Joseph enter]

Speaker 9

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. (Luke 2:1-5)

Speaker 10

And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:6-7)

Speaker 11

The miracle that had been so long foretold has become flesh and is now dwelling among us. Out of the darkness that Israel faced came the light of the world, shining from a lowly manger. This infant Messiah is the one who will bear the iniquities of us all upon the cross. “But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.” (John 1:14; Isaiah 9:2a, Isaiah 53:5)

Speakers 9-11, Mary, Joseph (Group)

Jesus lay in manger low, A gift for me and you to know.
A wooden manger roughly made Foretells a cross where sins were laid.
For you!

[Speakers exit as Mary and Joseph remain]

Hymn 364 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 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 Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.



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3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

*[As the hymn ends, **Speakers 12-15** enter. **Shepherds, Sheep,** and one (1) **Angel** enter and come to mid-sanctuary or performance area that is not directly around **Mary and Joseph**]*

Speaker 12

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

(Luke 2:8-12)

*[As **Speaker 13** reads the next section, the rest of the **Angels** enter from all directions, surrounding the congregation]*

Speaker 13

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 among those with whom he is pleased!"

(Luke 2:13-14)

*[As **Speaker 14** reads the next section, **Angels** join **Mary and Joseph** at the front of the sanctuary, followed by the **Shepherds and Sheep**]*

Speaker 14

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

(Luke 2:15-17)

Speaker 15

A multitude of angels joyfully announced Jesus' birth to the shepherds. This Jesus, of whom the angels sang, and the shepherds saw, is the Good Shepherd foretold by the prophets. He is the one who will lay down His life for His sheep. Through His death, he will restore our souls and prepare a table for us. This Christ child is the savior of us all.

(Psalm 23:3,5)

Speakers 12-15, Mary, Joseph, Angels, Shepherds, and Sheep (Group)

Shepherds marveled at the sight Of Jesus in that manger bright.
Good Shepherd sent to earth below Will bear the cross, great pain to know.
For You!



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[Speakers exit as hymn begins; Mary, Joseph, Angels, Sheep, and Shepherds remain]

Hymn 358: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (the Angels and Shepherd's Hymn) v. 1-3, 8, 15

1. "From heav'n above to earth I come
to bear good news to ev'ry home:
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing.
2. "To you this night is born a child
Of Mary chosen virgin mild;
This little child of lowly birth
Shall be the joy of all the earth.
3. "This is the Christ, our God Most High,
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.
8. "Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery
That You might share Your joy with me.
15. "Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth."

[Speakers 16-20 enter as hymn ends; Wise Men enter and come to mid-sanctuary or performance area that is not directly around Mary, Joseph, Angels, Sheep, and Shepherds]

Speaker 16

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.
(Matthew 2:1-4)



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Speaker 17

They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

(Matthew 2:5-6)

Speaker 18

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”

(Matthew 2:7-8)

[As Speaker 19 reads the next section, Wise Men join Mary, Joseph, Angels, Sheep, and Shepherds]

Speaker 19

After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

(Matthew 2:9-12)

Speaker 20

These Wise Men from a pagan land knew that a King had been born. The birth of Jesus is good news for Jew and Gentile alike. This infant who the Wise men hailed has come to be the king of the world, to suffer, die, and rise for the salvation of all. For there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

(Galatians 3:28; 1 John 2:2)

Speakers 16-20, Mary, Joseph, Angels, Shepherds, Sheep, and Wise Men (Group)

Wise Men shared in the delight Of Jesus' birth that Christmas night.

Angel, shepherd, sheep all sing To Mary, Joseph, and the King.

Born for you!

[As the introduction of Joy to the World is played, Speakers 1-15 come back in to join Speakers 16-20, Mary, Joseph, Angels, Shepherds, Sheep, and Wise Men to sing verse one of the hymn]



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Closing Hymn 387: Joy to the World (v. 1 Kids only)

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King:
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, 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.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, and wonders of His love.