



CREATOR INCARNATE

*O God eternal, ruler of creation, Spirit of life, which moved ere form was made:
through the thick darkness cov'ring ev'ry nation, light for our blindness, oh, be now our aid.
Your kingdom come, O Lord; your will be done!*

BEFORE THE BEGINNING, GOD WAS.

But God was not known
for there was no one to do the knowing.
God sought into the nothingness,
but found only a great...
...silence...

Not-Being was not, Being was not then,
Air was not, nor sky beyond.
What was the covering—where, in whose ward?
Was there water, deep, profound?

Death was not, nor deathlessness then,
No token was there of night or day.
The One breathed windless, of its own power:
Beyond this there was naught whatsoever.

Darkness there was, hidden in darkness, at first;
This universe, a tokenless flood.
When the living was covered by the void,
By the power of Heat was born the One.

Desire in the beginning came upon it,
Which was the first seed of Thought.
The root of Being in Not-Being was found
By sages tracing it with understanding in their hearts.

Into the silence, God spoke the Word,
Peace,
yet still there were no ears to hear it.
And so began the Beginning,
when God Created.

GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH AND ON EARTH PEACE.

PEACE ON EARTH TO ALL WHO HEAR GOD'S WORD. ALLELUIA!

In the beginning, God created
everything from nothing:
the infinite reaches of space-time,
the mysterious building blocks of the universe,
the hidden principles and laws which all obey.
From a place unseen,
from a point too small to measure,
through chaos and cataclysm,
God brought forth all things:
Formative vibrations of energy;
Particles in random spin;

Gravity's stately dance;
Heavenly bodies in solemn orbital arcs;
The reaching arms of galaxies;
A hidden lattice of dark matter;
Time, as connecting strand.
God made building blocks into elements,
elements into molecules,
molecules into the blueprints of life,
and set the ways of biology into motion.
Now God sought into a teaming universe
and heard the joyful song of the Created.

*The earth adorned in verdant robe sends praises upward surging
To join with all the universe in thankful praises merging
With hope and joy their songs employ a rapturous exultation
In praise of God's creation.*

Amid the created order, God placed the human,
made after God's own image,
charged with protecting and nurturing all things,
given intelligence and self-awareness,

but also a finite and fragile span of years.
So even as humans received their breath,
they used it to cry out to their creator.

Bless thou the Lord, O my soul, bless God's holy name. Blessed art thou evermore, O Lord.

O Lord my God, thou art become exceeding glorious.

*When thou sendest forth thy spirit, we are created. Lord, how manifold are thy works, in wisdom hast thou made them all.
When thou takest away our breath, we die as to dust. Lord, how manifold are thy works, in wisdom hast thou made them all.
God, almighty father, Lord of all creation. Glory be to thee, O Lord. Thou hast made them all.*

And when the Beginning had ended,
God sought into the Creation and found it seeking its creator.
And so began the Dance.

*O God, amid these joys of life, creation's glory beaming,
Grant us the grace to keep your word and live in love redeeming.
All flesh is grass, the flowers fade, and time is fleeting ever;
God's word remains forever.*

Peace on earth to all.

When God at first made man,
Having a glass of blessings standing by;
Let us (said he) pour on him all we can:
Let the world's riches, which dispersed lie,
Contract into a span.

So strength first made a way;
Then beauty flow'd, then wisdom, honor, pleasure:
When almost all was out, God made a stay,
Perceiving that alone, of all his treasure,
REST in the bottom lay.

For if I should (said he)
Bestow this jewel also on my creature,
He would adore my gifts instead of me,
And rest in Nature, not the God of Nature:
So both should losers be.

Yet let him keep the rest,
But keep them with repining restlessness:
Let him be rich and weary, that at least,
If goodness lead him not, yet weariness
May toss him to my breast.

INTERLUDE

To God, the everlasting, who abides,
One Life within things infinite that die:
To him whose unity no thought divides:
Whose breath is breathèd through immensity.

Him neither eye hath seen, nor ear hath heard;
Nor reason, seated in the souls of men,
Though pondering oft on the mysterious word,
Hath e'er revealed his being to mortal ken.

Earth changes, and the starry wheels roll round;
The seasons come and go, moons wax and wane;
The nations rise and fall, and fill the ground,
Storing the sure results of joy and pain:

Slow knowledge widens toward a perfect whole,
From that first man who named the name of heaven,
To him who weighs the planets as they roll,
And knows what laws to every life are given.

Yet he appears not. Round the extreme sphere
Of science still thin ether floats unseen:
Darkness still wraps him round; and ignorant fear
Remains of what we are, and what have been.

Only we feel him; and in aching dreams,
Swift intuitions, pangs of keen delight,
The sudden vision of his glory seems
To sear our souls, dividing the dull night:

(Please stand.)

All, melody 1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
Women 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
All, harmony 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
All, melody 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

Men most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

(Please sit.)

*O Light everlasting, O Love never failing,
 Illumine our darkness, and draw us to thee.
 May we from thy spirit receive inspiration
 That all of creation thy wisdom may see.
 Make known to all nations, thy peace and salvation,
 And help us, Creator, thy temple to be.*

So we yearn toward God. Beauty, Goodness, Truth;
 These three are one; one life, one thought, one being;
 One source of still rejuvenescent youth;
 One light for endless and unclouded seeing.

O God, unknown, invisible, secure,
 Whose being by dim resemblances we guess,
 Who in our fear and love abidest sure,
 Whose power we feel in darkness and confess!

*Shine with radiant light
 within your earthly circle
 understanding not.*

Without thee nothing is, and thou art nought
 When on thy substance we gaze curiously:
 By thee impalpable, named Force and Thought,
 The solid world still ceases not to be.

Lead Thou me God, Law, Reason, Duty, Life!
 All names for Thee alike are vain and hollow—
 Lead me, for I will follow without strife;
 Or, if I strive, still must I blindly follow.

*Shine with radiant light
 in the soft and surrounding
 Mystery of All.*

And now, my God, by thy illumining grace,
 Thy glorious face
 (So far forth as thou wilt discovered be)
 Methinks I see:
 And though invisible and infinite;
 To human sight
 Thou in thy mercy, justice, truth, appearest,
 In which to our frail senses thou com'st nearest.

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 into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

CAROL OF THE BIRDS

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Creator's heart, who has made him known.

O, make us apt to seek and quick to find,
 Thou God most kind:
 Give us love, hope, and faith in thee to trust,
 Thou God most just:
 Remit all our offenses, we entreat,
 Most good, most great:
 Grant that our willing though unworthy quest
 May, through thy grace, admit us 'mongst the blest.

*Abide with us, our Savior, sustain us by thy Word; That we with all thy people to life may be restored.
 How kind, O loving Savior, to come from heav'n above, From sin and evil save us, and keep us in thy love.*

When Christ-mas morn is dawn - ing In faith I would re - pair Un - to the low - ly man - ger; My
 We need thee, bless - ed Je - sus, To be our dear - est friend. Your love will guard and guide us And

Sav - iour li - eth there, Un - to the low - ly man - ger; My Sav - iour li - eth there.
 keep us to life's end. Your love will guard and guide us And keep us to life's end.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; change your ways, and believe in the good news."

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them.

*His voice, as the sound of the dulcimer sweet, is heard through the shadows of death;
The cedars of Lebanon bow at His feet; the air is perfumed with His breath.
His lips as the fountain of righteousness flow, that waters the garden of grace,
From which their salvation the people shall know, and bask in the smile of His face.*

*Love sits in His eyelids and scatters delight through all the bright regions on high;
Their faces the Cherubim veil in His sight and tremble with fullness of joy;
He looks and ten-thousands of angels rejoice, and myriads wait for His word;
He speaks and eternity, filled with His voice, reechoes the praise of her Lord.*

*O Thou in whose presence my soul takes delight, on whom, in affliction, I call,
My comfort by day and my song in the night, my hope, my salvation, my ALL.*

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea--for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Jesus went out again beside the sea; the whole crowd gathered around him, and he taught them. As he was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. He began to teach them many things in parables.

THE BOATMAN

The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, asking him for a sign from heaven, to test him. And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, "Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation." And he left them, and getting into the boat again, he went across to the other side.

Then they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.

My soul, there is a country
Where stands a winged sentry

There above noise, and danger
Sweet peace sits crown'd with smiles,
And one born in a manger
Commands the beauteous files,

There grows the flower of peace,
Thy stronghold, and thy ease;

Leave then thy foolish ranges;
For none can thee secure,
But one who never changes,
Thy God, thy life, thy cure.

(Please stand.)



1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day
2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,
3 Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;
its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown -
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless - ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end:
though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav - en's gar - den grown:
we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,
for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

(Please sit.)

*O when shall I see Jesus and reign with him above,
And shall hear the trumpet sound in that morning;
And from the flowing fountain drink everlasting love,
And hear the trumpet sound in that morning.*

*But now I am a trav'ler, my guide has gone before,
And I hear the trumpet sound in that morning.
He has put me on the pathway and he bids me ne'er give o'er,
Till I hear the trumpet sound in that morning.*

O shout glory! I shall mount above the skies when I hear the trumpet sound in that morning.

*When shall I be delivered from this vain world of sin,
And shall hear the trumpet sound in that morning.
And with my blessed Jesus drink endless pleasures in,
And shall hear the trumpet sound in that morning.*

He is the visible and the invisible;
Behind his mouth and eyes are other mouth and eyes.
Thirster after visions,
 he sees the flowers to their roots
 and the Earth back through its silent ages.
He parts the sky with his gaze,
 and in the actual morning, out of longing,
 shapes on the hills tomorrow's golden grandeur.

*My Lord, what a mornin' when the stars begin to fall.
Done quit all my worldly ways, join that heavenly band.*

At zero hour God came
A baby on the thirsty earth
Twenty billion invisible nerve cells
With a live reminiscence of heaven

God spoke one small creative word
A benediction for creation

GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH AND ON EARTH PEACE.

PEACE ON EARTH TO ALL WHO HEAR GOD'S WORD. ALLELUIA!

Seek your Creator among the stars,
 inside the smallest clutch of particles,
 along the sea of Galilee,
 and within the manger.

Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who seeks finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened."

*How shall we love you, holy, hidden Being, if we love not the world which you have made?
Ob, give us deeper love for better seeing your Word made flesh, and in a manger laid.
Your kingdom come, O Lord; your will be done!*

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Advent Devotion ✦ December 18, 2011, 8:45 & 11:00 AM

ADULT CHOIR

Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass
Nyssa Capman	Barb Holm*	Paul Eid	Clifford Brown
Lois Eid	Carol Johnson	Josef Fortier	Bill Capman
Sandy Hoverson	Judy Kampinen	Peter Johnson	Mark Holm
Amy Johnson	Nancy Madich*	Dennis Ormseth	Bob Hulteen
Pamela Kildahl*	Susan Nixon*	Robert Peterson	John Sulzbach
Drew Lindorfer	Allene Qualheim		Wayne Vetter
Mary Ellen Olson	Stephanie Sulzbach		
Laura Simms			<i>*in absentia</i>
Stella Townsend*			

TRINITY SINGERS

Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass
Andrea Hansen	Jane Aldrich	Bob Aldrich	David Broberg
Gretchen Lund	Karen Fantauzza		Brian Lenz
Laurie Sugiarto*	Liz Rudrud		John Sulzbach
Stephanie Sulzbach			

PARTICIPANTS

John Buzza, Reader	Laura Sewell, Cello
Mary Lindell, Reader	Mike Smith, Bass
Julie Lindorff, Organ and Piano	Andrea Stern, Harp
Lowell Prescott, Conductor	

MUSIC (in order of appearance): LBW 413 O God Eternal, Ruler of Creation • *Creation Suite* (ed. Larry L. Fleming) which includes excerpts from "Glory Be to God on High" (Sergei Rachmaninoff, No. 7 from the *All-Night Vigil*, Op. 37); "The Earth Adorned" (Waldemar Ahlen); "Bless Thou the Lord" (Alexander Gretchaninoff, No. 1 from the *All-Night Vigil*, Op. 59) • "Interlude" from *Ceremony of Carols* (Benjamin Britten) • *Light Everlasting* (O. C. Christiansen) • *Shine With Radiant Light* (Lowell Prescott) • *Carol of the Birds* (Pablo Casals) • *When Christmas Morn is Dawning* (arr. Lowell Prescott) • *His Voice* (arr. Larry L. Fleming) • *The Boatman* (Scotland) • *The Morning Trumpet* (B. F. White, arr. J. H. Wood) • *My Lord, What a Mornin'* (arr. Harry T. Burleigh)

READINGS (in order of appearance): "Before the Beginning...", "Into the silence...", "In the Beginning...", "Amid the created order...", "And when the Beginning..." and "Seek your creator..." from *The Cosmic Creation* by Lowell Prescott • "Not-Being was not..." East Indian, 15th century BCE • "When God at first..." *The Pulley* by George Herbert • "To God, the everlasting..." and "So we yearn..." from *An Invocation* by John Addington Symonds (1840-93) • "And now, my God..." and "O, make us apt..." from *The Search for God* by Thomas Heywood (1574-1641) • "In the beginning was the Word..." and "And the Word..." from the Gospel of John, chapter 1 • "The beginning of the good news...", "As Jesus passed..." and "The Pharisees came..." from the Gospel of Mark • "My soul, there is a country..." from *Peace* by Henry Vaughan (1622-95) • "He is the visible..." adapted from *The New God* by James Oppenheim • "At zero hour..." adapted from *The Birth* by Cor W. Barendrecht • "Jesus said, 'Ask...'" Matthew 7:7-8

The COVER IMAGE is comprised of early Christian iconography merged with a particle stream image created by collisions of gold nuclei in the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider.