

How lonely sits the city that was full of people. How like a widow has she become, she that was great among nations. She weeps bitterly in the night, tears on her cheeks; among all her loves she has none to comfort her.

KYRIE ELEISON

The enemy has stretched out his hands over all her precious things; yea, she has seen the nations destroy her sanctuary, those whom thou didst forbid to enter thy congregation.

o vos omnes, qui transitis per viam, adtendite et videte si est dolor sicut dolor meus quoniam vindemiavit me ut locutus est Dominus in die irae furoris sui

vide Domine quoniam tribulor conturbatus est venter meus subversum est cor meum in memet ipsa quoniam amaritudine plena sum foris interfecit gladius et domi mors similis est

idcirco ego plorans et oculus meus deducens aquam quia longe factus est a me consolator convertens animam meam facti sunt filii mei perditi quoniam invaluit inimicus All of you, who pass this way,
look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow,
for I was punished
when the Lord spoke on the day of fierce anger.

Consider me, Lord, for I am divided, my stomach aches, my heart and soul have been destroyed, bitterness fills my existence.
Beyond the walls the sword kills, and at home is like death.

So I lament and my eyes flow with tears, for far away is the comforter who will restore my soul. My children are ruined, for stronger still grows the enemy.

Arise, cry out in the night, at the beginning of the watches! Pour out your heart like water before the presence of the Lord!

Lift your hands for the lives of your children,
who faint for hunger at the head of every street.

Darest thou now, O Soul,
Walk out with me toward the Unknown Region,
Where neither ground is for the feet, nor any path to follow?

ego vir videns paupertatem meam
in virga indignationis eius
me minavit et adduxit in tenebris et non in lucem
vetustam fecit pellem meam et carnem meam contrivit ossa mea
in tenebrosis conlocavit me quasi mortuos sempiternos
sed et cum clamavero et rogavero exclusit orationem meam
et dixi periit finis meus et spes mea a Domino

I am the one who sees my own poverty under his rod of indignation.

He threatens me and leads me to darkness with no light.

He has aged my flesh, and made my body crumble to bones. In darkness he placed me, like one of the forever dead.

Though I shout and pray, he shuts out my cries.

So I say: gone is my purpose, and my hope in the Lord.

I HAVE WALKED many years in this city, Have given and taken honour and ease. Who shall remember my house, where shall live my children's children When the time of sorrow is come?

recordare Domine quid acciderit nobis intuere et respice obprobrium nostrum

converte nos Domine ad te et convertemur innova dies nostros sicut a principio Remember, O Lord, what has befallen us. Look and see our shame.

Restore us, O Lord, to you and we will return to new as in the beginning.

I am the first and the last; besides me there is no god.

Who is like me? let them proclaim it, let them declare and set it forth before me.

Do not fear, or be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? You are my witnesses!

Is there any god besides me? There is no other rock; I know not one.



Remember my affliction and my bitterness. My soul continually thinks of it and is bowed down within me. But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, God's mercies never end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.

I saw a stable, low and very bare,
A little child in a manger.
The oxen knew him, had him in their care,
To men he was a stranger.
The safety of the world was lying there,
And the world's danger.

Please stand and face the cross as it enters, turning once again to face the altar as the cross passes.

I. All

O sing we now, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice! Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; Ox and ass before him bow, And he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

2. All

O sing we now, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice! Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore! Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

3. Choir

O Patris caritas, O Nati lenitas! Deeply were we stainéd per Nostra crimina; But thou hast for us gainéd caelorum gaudia O that we were there, O that we were there. 4. Choir

Ubi sunt gaudia, where? If that they be not there? There are angels singing Nova cantica
There the bells are ringing In Regis curia
O that we were there, O that we were there.

5. All

O sing we now, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice! Now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

6. All

In dulci jubilo, let us our homage show! Our heart's joy reclineth in praesepio! And like a bright star shineth, matris in gremio! Alpha es et O, Alpha es et O! O Bethlehem, who gavest birth to our Redeemer, O happy town!
Glorious and great is thy renown, for 'tis from thee shone forth the light that fills each home and heart tonight. O Bethlehem! O happy town!

Come and adore!
Come all ye shepherds from the mountains, come and adore!
Heavenward let your voices soar, praising the glorious Jesus Child and His sweet Mother Mary mild.
Come and adore! O come and adore!

Born today! Born today! Christ is born today! Nowell! The Saviour hath how appeared. Alleluia! Earth list'ning hears the angels sing. For joy the archangels shout: Nowell!

(All sing)

It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old, From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all gracious King!" The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Ave regina coelorum. Heroina angelorum, Salve radix, salve porta, Ex qua mundo lux est orta.

Gaude virgo gloriosa, Super omnes speciosa: Vale, o valde decora, Et pro nobis exora. Hail, queen of heaven. Heroine of the angels, Hail to our root, hail to our gate, Through whom the world's light is begun.

Rejoice, glorious virgin, Most splendid of all: Be well, oh great beauty; And pray for us.

En la noche los pastores A sus ovejitas velan; Angeles del cielo alaban, Angeles del cielo cantan: Pastorcitos, id, pastorcitos ya A adorar al Niño, Que en Belén está.

Del oriente, Reyes Magos Siguen la brillant estrella, Qieren ofrecer regalos, Traen ricos aguinaldos. Magos, oh venid, Magos, oh llegad A adorar al Niño, Que en Belén está.

Con alegre reverencia
En la bella Nochebuena
Los cristianos hoy alaban,
Los cristianos todos cantan:
Pueblos, oh venid, pueblos, oh llegad,
A adorar al Niño,
Que en Belén está.

In the evening the shepherds Were watching their sheep; Angels in the sky were praising, Angels in the sky were singing: Shepherds, go, shepherds, now Adore the Child, Who is in Bethlehem.

From the East magician kings
Follow the bright star,
They want to offer gifts,
They bring rich treasures.
Wisemen, come, Wisemen, arrive
Adore the Child,
Who is in Bethlehem.

With reverent joy On this beautiful Christmas Eve, All Christians now worship, All Christians together sing: People, come, people, arrive Adore the Child, Who is in Bethlehem. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;

Close by me forever and love me, I pray;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,

Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

O Blessed Babe! O Holy Child! A humble infant born within a stall. The tiny son of Mary mild, He was the Savior, the Redeemer of all. And so the heavens rang with angel songs, Glad tidings filled poor shepherds hearts with joy. A brilliant star rose in the sky anew To show the light of hope lay in this baby boy.

O Savior, rend the heavens wide; Come down, come down with mighty stride; Unlock the gates, the doors break down; Unbar the way to heaven's crown.

1. Choir
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.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy.

How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far. Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?

Can we see the little child, is he within? If we lift the wooden latch may we go in?

Great kings bring precious gifts, and we have naught, Little smiles and little tears are all we brought.

For all weary children Mary must weep. Here on His bed of straw sleep, children sleep.

Come, and let us worship and fall down before Christ.
O save us, Son of God, who from the heav'ns came down,
To thee do we sing: Alleluia!
Holy Father, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy.

Love so deep He chose to sleep on the hay, a child this God, love undefiled.

Babe's head so small, resting knows all, our fears, our need for Peace. From slumber wakes, no crying makes, He bids our longing cease.

Entre le bouef et l'ane gris, Dors, le petit fils: Mille anges divins, mille séraphins, Volent à l'entour de ce grand Dieu d'amour. Roi des anges, dors.

'Twixt ox and ass, Thy guardians mild, Sleep, Thou little Child: Many angels divine, many seraphim, Watching from above the great God of love. King of angels, sleep.





Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright Round you virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was thine, Thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this.

Many ages after the world was created
when God, in the beginning, formed the heavens and the earth;
long after the great Flood;
some two thousand years after the birth of Abraham;
fifteen centuries after Moses and the passing over of Israel;
a thousand years after the anointing of David as king;
in the sixty-fifth week as Daniel's prophecy takes note;
in the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad,
the seven hundred and fifty-second year from the founding of the City of Rome;
the forty-second year of Octavian Augustus' rule;
in the sixth age of the world, all the earth being at PEACE,

JESUS CHRIST,

Eternal God,

Son of the Father,

willing to hallow the world by His coming in mercy,
was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judah,

GOD MADE FLESH

CHRISTE ELEISON

Blue homespun and the bend of my breast keep warm this small hot naked star fallen to my arms. (Rest... you who have had so far to come.)

He sleeps, whose eyelids have not closed before. His breath (so slight it seems no breath at all) once ruffled the dark deeps to sprout a world.

Brought to this birth for me to be newborn, and for him to see me mended I must see him torn.

He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, "Father, if thou art willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done." And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down upon the ground.

I. All

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

2. All

Oh come, oh come, thou Lord of might, Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height In ancient times didst give the law In cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

3. All

Oh come, thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny:
From depths of hell thy people save
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel

4. All

Oh come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer Our spirits by thine advent here; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel

Make haste, O God, to deliver me; make haste to help me, O God.

Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee:
and let such as love thy salvation say continually, let God be magnified.

Make haste unto me, O God: make haste to deliver me.

But I am poor and needy: thou art my help, and my deliverer; O Lord, make no tarrying.

Hushed is the dark to hear the plaint of our lowing, Mournful cry of the dumb-tired hearts within us, Faint to death with thirst and the gnawing of hunger. Some fall down with a plaintive moaning and perish; But upward we strain nor stop, for the Voice comes to us:

Peace I leave with you.

My peace I give unto you.

Not as the world gives, give I unto you.

Let not your heart be troubled,

neither let it be afraid.

It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

Those who conquer will inherit these things,
and I will be their God and they will be my children.

These are the gems of the Human Soul, The rubies and pearls of a lovesick eye, The countless gold of the aching heart, That His grief is their eternal joy.

Then I saw a new heav'n and a new earth; for the first heav'n and the first earth had passed away.

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heav'n from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. He will wipe away ev'ry tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, for the former things have passed away.

We are sighing for you, far land,
All our life, working, waiting, night and day:
But as the waves that die to reach the farther shore
Break our hearts that die to reach you evermore,
All our hearts are breaking, breaking toward that shore,
O far land, so near and far away!

1. All

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness; No merit of my own I claim, But wholly lean on Jesus' name. On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand. 2. All

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace; In ev'ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

3. Choir

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Be Thou our guide while life shall last, And our eternal home.

3. All

His oath, his covenant, his blood Sustain me in this raging flood; When all around my soul gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand. 4. All

When he shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in him be found, Clothed in his righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before the throne! On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

KYRIE ELEISON

At the last, tenderly

From the walls of the powerful fortressed house,

From the clasp of the knitted locks –

from the keep of the well-closed doors,

Let me be wafted.

Let me glide noiselessly forth; With the key of softness unlock the locks—with a whisper Open the doors, O soul! Grant us thy peace, O Lord.
Before the certain hour of maternal sorrow,
Now at this birth season of decease,
Let the Infant,
the still unspeaking and unspoken Word,
Grant Israel's consolation.

O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Be Thou our guide while life shall last, And our eternal home.

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MUSIC HEARD IN THE 2000 CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL (in order of appearance): Kyrie, arr. Paul J. Christiansen; The Lamentations of Jeremiah, Alberto Ginastera; O God, Our Help in Ages Past, arr. Paul J. Christiansen; In Dulci Jubilo, arr. R. L. Pearsall; O Bethlehem, arr. Lowell H. Prescott; Born Today!, J. P. Sweelinck; Ave Regina, György Orbán; En La Noche Los Pastores Velan, arr. Timothy A. Smith; Away in a Manger, arr. Larry L. Fleming; Oh Blessed Babe, Sue Neimoyer; O Savior Rend the Heavens Wide, arr. Lowell H. Prescott; How Far Is It to Bethlehem, arr. Paul J. Christiansen; Come and Let Us Worship, Alexander T. Gretchaninoff; Lullaby, Kenneth Hodgson; Dors, le petit fils (Sleep, Little Child), F. A. Gevaert; See Amid the Winter's Snow, arr. Larry L. Fleming; Mary's Song, Knut Nystedt; Make Haste, O God, James Fritschel; Peace I Leave With You, Lowell H. Prescott; I Saw a New Heaven and a New Earth, Carl Schalk. Readings were selected from the Lamentations of Jeremiah, Isaiah, Luke, and Revelation as well as the works of William Blake, Mary Coleridge, T. S. Eliot, Wilbur Underwood, John Hall Wheelock and Walt Whitman. Event design and editing by Lowell H. Prescott.

THE NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR wishes to extend its thanks to all who volunteered their time in preparation for this event, including special thanks to Father Michael J. O'Connell, Kathy Dhaemers, and the staff of the Basilica of Saint Mary; Father John Estrem, James Biery, and the staff of the Cathedral of Saint Paul; Pastor Dick Hamlin, Pastor Rebecca Ellenson, Pastor Paul Remark, Glenn Peterson and the staff of First Lutheran Church, Duluth.

Please refrain from the use of cameras or recording equipment. The 2000 Christmas Festival is being professionally recorded for future use. Your help in avoiding any extraneous noise is appreciated. The program will be broadcast on WCAL-FM, 89.3, on Sunday, December 24, 2000 at 9:00 PM.

Restroom facilities for the Basilica of Saint Mary are located in the undercroft, down one level by stairs or elevator from the narthex. If needed, please consult an usher during congregational singing only.



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Clara R. Swenson Linnea Swenson Martha R. Tedrowe John and Jacqueline Teisberg Jon Tellekson Helen Thelander Edward and Barbara Thode Lowell and Vi Thompson Philip and Joy Thompson C. Blaine and Cynthia Vik Thrasher John and Theresa Thurmes Deanne Tibben Ruth and Paul Tillquist James W. Toensing Sara Trumm David and Janice Tweet James and Nancy Uden Bryant Ulseth Karen VanNorman Leonard and Edris Vick Lynne A. Volkman Lydia A. Volz Rev. Walter E.N. and Blanche Wahl Sonja H. Walker Scott and Valerie Weber Lillian Weiss Donald and Penelope Widmayer Eldri and Rev. Dr. Michael Wittkamper Arden B. Wold Rev. & Mrs. James P. Worthington Clell Wright Anne and Jonathan Zielske Kurt and Dorris Zielske Naomi and Jeff Zupfer

IN HONOR OF

John Gisselquist Sandra and William Puckett Zachary David Reeves Scott Weber

IN MEMORY OF

Kevin Hancer
Ben Hawkinson
Les Juel
John McDermid
Gordon Osland
Selmer Sathre
Evelyn Shoultz
Leonard Takkunen
Alma and Frank Whitney
William Boyd Wick

RECORDINGS AVAILABLE

The National Lutheran Choir has released 12 recordings on CD and cassette, plus two limited edition recordings on CD. These may be purchased at this concert or by contacting the choir at the address below.

HERITAGE SERIES

Volume I – European

A compilation of music from Western and Central Europe composed during the Renaissance, Baroque and Romantic periods.

Volume II – A New Song

A collection exploring the broad spectrum of compositional styles in the 20th century.

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Simple, direct and personal music celebrating the use of folk tunes as an expression of faith, both in and out of worship.

CHRISTMAS

Each of these five titles is filled with a wide variety of music celebrating the Nativity.

Infant Holy Jesu, Come Only a Manger While Angels Sing Wondrous Birth

LENT/EASTER

Tree of Glory

GENERAL

Brahms Requiem

A rare recording of this masterpiece in an original setting by the composer for two pianos and chorus.

The People's Song

A collection filled with melodies known and loved by congregations throughout the world.

Trinity

A meditation on Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

LIMITED EDITION RECORDINGS STILL AVAILABLE

Christmas Festival 1998

Recorded live at the Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis, MN

Audience Favorites Concert - May 8, 1999

Recorded live at Benson Great Hall, Arden Hills, MN

2000 - 2001 CONCERT SEASON

WINTER CONCERT

René Clausen, Conducting Thursday, February 22, 2001, 8:00 PM General Admission \$12, Students \$6

SPRING CONCERT

René Clausen, Conducting Friday, May 11, 2000, 8:00 PM Benson Great Hall, Arden Hills General Admission \$12, Students \$6

THE NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR

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