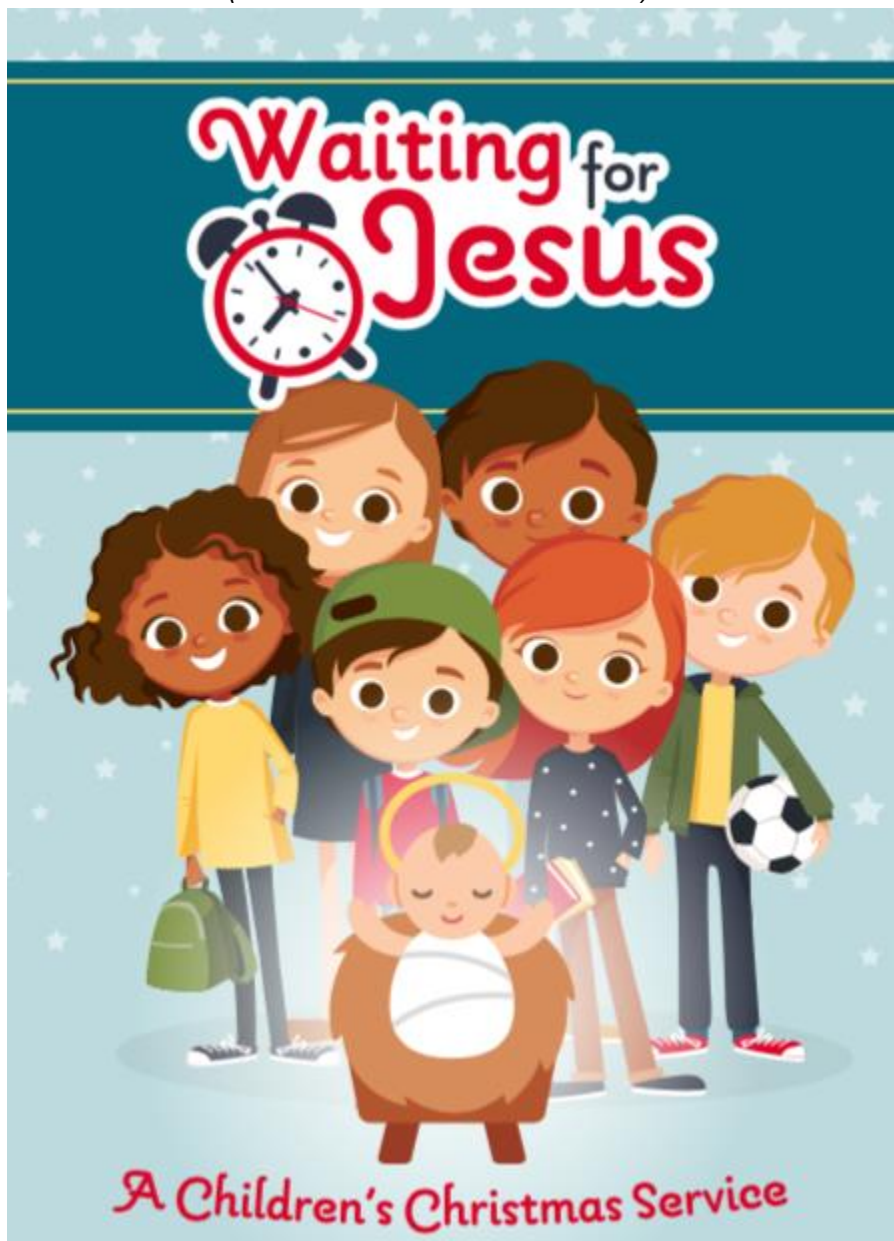


**WAITING FOR JESUS**  
*(A Children's Christmas Service)*



*Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord! Psalm 27:14*

## **AS WE GATHER**

As you wait for the service to begin, prepare for worship as a child excitedly waits for Christmas. Wait in joyful expectation of the Good News the children will share of the long-awaited promise of God, fulfilled in the birth of Jesus.

**OPENING HYMN:** Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus LSB 338

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

**Born thy people to deliver; born a child and yet a king! Born to  
reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine  
own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; By thine all-  
sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

## **INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take  
courage; wait for the Lord!

**I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his Word I hope.**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

**This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and  
rejoice in his salvation.**

Jesus, our Savior, has come; he dwells with us now; and he will  
return in glory.

**Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the Lord!**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Heavenly Father, as we wait for Christmas to celebrate Jesus' birth, and as we wait for him to return, help us to trust in your promises. Bless the children as they share your message and assure us of Jesus' presence with us right now and forever. Amen.

## **A MEDITATION**

### **WAITING FOR JESUS WITH FAITH**

#### **GENESIS 15:1-6**

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." <sup>4</sup> And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

#### **MATTHEW 1:2,6**

<sup>2</sup> Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, <sup>6</sup> and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah,

#### **LUKE 2:1-6**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

<sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> 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, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.

## **LUKE 2:7**

<sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**SONG BY CONGREGATION** Once in Royal David's City LSB 376  
**Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed Where a  
mother laid her baby in a manger for a bed. Mary was that  
mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of  
all, And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
With the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior  
holy.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming  
love; For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n  
above; And he leads his children on to the place where he is  
gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on  
high; When like stars his children crowned all in white shall  
wait around.**

## **WAITING FOR JESUS WITH REJOICING**

### **LUKE 1:39-42**

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup> and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup> and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

### **LUKE 1:46-49**

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup> for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

### **LUKE 1:50-53**

<sup>50</sup> And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; <sup>52</sup> he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

### **LUKE 1:54-55**

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

**Now sing we now rejoice, now raise to heav'n our voice; He  
from whom joy streameth poor in a manger lies; Not so  
brightly beameth the sun in yonder skies. Thou my Savior art!  
Thou my Savior art!**

**Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to thee.  
Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child; Through thy  
grace and merit, blest Jesus, Lord most mild, Draw me unto  
thee! Draw me unto thee!**

**Now through his Son doth shine the Father's grace divine.  
Death was reigning o'er us through sin and vanity  
Till he opened for us a bright eternity.  
May we praise him there! May we praise him there!**

**Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'nly ground?  
Where the angels singing with all his saints unite, Sweetest  
praises bringing in heav'nly joy and light.  
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!**

## **WAITING FOR JESUS WITH HOPE**

### **ISAIAH 40:27-31**

<sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? <sup>28</sup> Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. <sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. <sup>30</sup> Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup> but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

### **LUKE 2:8-12**

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

### **LUKE 2:13-16**

<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” <sup>15</sup> 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.” <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

### **SONG BY CONGREGATION AND CHILDREN**

Angels from the Realms of Glory LSB 367

**Angels from the realms of glory,  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth:  
Ye who sang creation's story,  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.**

*Refrain (Sung by the Children):*  
*Come and worship, come and worship;*  
*Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

**Shepherds in the field abiding,  
Watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines His Infant Light. [Refrain]**

**Sages, leave your contemplations,  
Brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations,  
Ye have seen His natal star. [Refrain]**

**Saints before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In His temple shall appear. [Refrain]**

**All creation, join in praising  
God the Father, Spirit, Son.  
Evermore your voices raising  
To the eternal Three in One. [Refrain]**

## **WAITING FOR JESUS WITH GRATITUDE**

### **LUKE 1:68**

<sup>68</sup> “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people



### **LUKE 1:69-73**

<sup>69</sup> and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, <sup>70</sup> as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, <sup>71</sup> that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; <sup>72</sup> to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, <sup>73</sup> the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us

### **LUKE 1:74-75**

<sup>74</sup> that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

### **LUKE 1:76-79**

<sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, <sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, <sup>78</sup> because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high <sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

### **LUKE 2:20**

<sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**SONG BY YOUNG CHILDREN** God Loves Me Dearly

### **THE LORD IS COME!**

### **JOHN 1:12**

<sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

## **JOHN 1:14**

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

## **SONG BY CONGREGATION AND CHILDREN**

O Come, All Ye Faithful LSB 379

**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;**

*Refrain (Sung by the Children):*

*O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord!*

**Highest, most holy,  
Light of Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]**

**Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God  
In the highest: [Refrain]**

**Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father  
Now in flesh appearing! [*Refrain*]**

## **LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING!**

### **PSALM 145:4**

<sup>4</sup> One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

### **OFFERING**

We offer our treasures to our King, Jesus, offering to him small tokens of our appreciation for his coming among us as a little baby and then offering himself up for us on the cross to give us everlasting life. We open our hearts and our lives to him with joy as we give our offerings now.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Thank you, Lord, for fulfilling all your promises at just the right time. Thank you especially for the gift of your Son, Jesus our Savior. Help us eagerly share the good news with everyone around us until the day he comes again. Amen.

### **BENEDICTION**

The Lord is come! Let Earth receive her king! As you celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas, watch how he reveals himself to you daily through his Word. And wait with faith, rejoicing, hope, and gratitude for the day he returns in all his glory. Amen.

**SONG BY CONGREGATION Joy to the World LSB 387**

**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.**

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

**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.**

**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, wonders of his love.**