

# THE WORD BECAME FLESH

Celebrating the  
Incarnation of Our Lord in Song

Advent/Christmas Concert

December 15, 2024, 4:00 p.m.





## ✝ In Nomine Jesu ✝

“The Word became flesh and lived among us...”

Jesus Christ was born into our frail and sinful world to redeem and save us, bringing salvation from heaven to earth and revealing the fullness of God’s very being. As we celebrate Jesus as the full Word of God incarnate, we cannot help but sing.

This year, 2024, marks the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of the first Lutheran hymnals and thus, of Lutheran chorales in general. A chorale is a specific kind of hymn that comes down to us largely from the early years of the Lutheran Reformation. Chorales tend to be hymns of praise combined with catechetical lessons, helping the faithful not only to sing the words of their faith, but also to learn more about it.

Martin Luther’s Christmas chorale, *Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ* (All praise to you, Jesus Christ) is one of these early Lutheran hymns, first published in a hymnal in Wittenberg in 1524. Today’s concert is shaped around Luther’s hymn and Bach’s 1724 cantata based on the hymn. We will sing the chorale together at the beginning of the concert. And we’ll listen as the children recite each stanza of the hymn, followed by Bach’s music and music from other composers. You’ll notice that Bach’s cantata uses the hymn tune and text verbatim in its first and last movements; in between, the recitatives and arias are poetic paraphrases of Luther’s words.

My own settings of the *Magnificat* and *Nunc dimittis* make use of chorale melodies, specifically those outlined by Martin Luther for use with these canticles. The *Magnificat* makes use of the ancient chant melody *tonus peregrinus*, which Bach himself used many times throughout his own compositions, and the *Nunc dimittis* makes use of the chorale *Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin* (In peace and joy I now depart).

It is always a joy to see our church and school community come together for this concert. It is my prayer that you find this to be a time of peace and an opportunity to reflect on the gift of Christ, the Word made flesh, for you.

A blessed Advent and Christmas to you.

In Christ,

The Rev. Michael D. Costello, Grace Cantor



We praise you, Jesus, at your birth;  
 Clothed in flesh you came to earth,  
 The virgin bears a sinless boy  
 And all the angels sing for joy.  
 Alleluia!

*We stand.*

We Praise You, Jesus, at Your Birth

Concertato by Michael D. Costello (b. 1979)  
 Stanza four setting by Johannes Eccard (1553–1611)



**C** 1. We praise you, Je-sus, at your birth; Clothed in flesh you came to earth.

**W** 2. Now in the man-ger we may see God's Son from e - ter - ni - ty,

**C** 3. The vir - gin Ma-ry's lul - la - by Calms the in - fant Lord Most High.

**Choir** 4. The Light E - ter-nal, break-ing through, Made the world to gleam a - new;

**C** 5. The ver - y Son of God sub - lime En - tered in - to earth - ly time

**M** 6. In pov - er - ty he came to earth Show - ing mer - cy by his birth;

**C** 7. All this for us our God has done Grant - ing love through his own Son.



The vir - gin bears a sin - less boy And all the an - gels sing for joy.

The gift from God's e - ter - nal throne Here clothed in our poor flesh and bone.

Up - on her lap con - tent is he Who keeps the earth and sky and sea.

His beams have pierced the core of night, He makes us child - ren of the light.

To lead us from this world of cares To heav - en's courts as bles - sed heirs.

He makes us rich in heav'n - ly ways As we, like an - gels, sing his praise.

There-fore, all Christ-en - dom, re - joice And sing his praise with end - less voice.



Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Stanza 1, German (c. 1380); stanzas 2-7, Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Tr. stanzas 1 and 6, Gregory Wismar; stanzas 2 and 4, F. Samuel Janzow; stanzas 3, 5, and 7, *Lutheran Service Book*.

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Tune: Enchiridion, Erfurt, 1524

GELOBET SEIST DU

8 7 8 4

## II

Now in the manger may we see  
God's Son from eternity,  
The gift from God's eternal throne  
Here clothed in our poor flesh and bone.  
Alleluia!

Opening Chorus from *Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ*, BWV 91

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685–1750)

Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ,  
Daß du Mensch geboren bist  
Von einer Jungfrau, das ist wahr,  
Des freuet sich der Engel Schar.  
Kyrie eleis!

All praise be to you, Jesus Christ,  
Since you were born a human being  
From a virgin, this is true,  
The host of angels rejoice at this.  
Lord, have mercy!

The Hands that First Held Mary's Child

Dan Forrest  
(b. 1978)

The hands that first held Mary's child were hard from working wood,  
From boards they sawed and planed and filed and splinters they withstood.  
This day they gripped no tool of steel, they drove no iron nail,  
But cradled from the head to heel our Lord, newborn and frail.

When Joseph marveled at the size of that small breathing frame,  
And gazed upon those bright new eyes and spoke the infant's name,  
The angel's words he once had dreamed poured down from heaven's height,  
And like the host of stars that beamed blessed earth with welcome light.

"This child shall be Emmanuel, not God upon the throne,  
But God with us, Emmanuel, as close as blood and bone."  
The tiny form in Joseph's palms confirmed what he had heard,  
And from his heart rose hymns and psalms for heaven's human word.

The tools that Joseph laid aside a mob would later lift  
And use with anger, fear, and pride to crucify God's gift.  
Let us, O Lord, not only hold the child who's born today,  
But charged with faith may we be bold to follow in his way.

Thomas Troeger, b. 1945

## Lovely Child, Holy Child

Valerie Shields  
(b. 1951)

Lovely child, holy child  
Gentle, mild, undefiled;  
Infant king, fairest king,  
Gifts we'll bring and anthems sing:  
Alleluia.

Child of light, born tonight,  
Our delight promise bright;  
Child so fair; see him there;  
Now declare him everywhere:  
Alleluia.

Rest thy head, sweetest head;  
Gifts we'll spread at thy bed,  
Jesus Lord, be adored,  
May this word now be out poured:  
Alleluia.

To this boy, our great joy,  
We employ hymns of joy;  
Child so fair; see him there;  
Now declare him everywhere:  
Alleluia.

David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

### III

The virgin Mary's lullaby  
Calms the infant Lord Most High.  
Upon her lap content is he  
Who keeps the earth and sky and sea.  
Alleluia!

Chorale and Recitative from *Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ*, BWV 91

J. S. Bach

Der Glanz der höchsten Herrlichkeit,  
Das Ebenbild von Gottes Wesen,  
Hat in bestimmter Zeit  
Sich einen Wohnplatz auserlesen.  
Des ewgen Vaters einigs Kind,  
Das ewge Licht von Licht geboren,  
Itzt man in der Krippe findt.  
O Menschen, schauet an,  
Was hier der Liebe Kraft getan!  
In unser armes Fleisch und Blut,  
(Und war denn dieses nicht  
Verflucht, verdammt, verloren?)  
Verkleidet sich das ewge Gut.  
So wird es ja zum Segen auserkoren.

The splendor of the highest glory,  
The image of God's being,  
Has in an appointed time  
Chosen for himself a place to dwell.  
The eternal Father's only Child,  
The eternal Light from Light born,  
Now you can find him in a crib.  
O humankind, behold,  
What the power of love has done here!  
Into our poor flesh and blood,  
(And was this not  
Cursed, damned, lost?)  
The eternal good is clothed.  
So it is chosen as a blessing.

I Sing of a Maiden

Patrick Hadley  
(1899–1973)

I sing of a maiden  
That is makeless  
King of all kings  
To her son she chose.

He came all so still  
Where his mother was,  
As dew in April  
That falleth on the grass.

He came all so still  
To his mother's bower  
As dew in April  
That falleth on the flower.

He came all so still  
Where his mother lay,  
As dew in April  
That falleth on the spray.

Mother and maiden  
Was never none but she:  
Well may such a lady  
God's mother be.

Middle English Carol

## Rocking Song

Dave and Jean Perry

Tiny baby softly sleeping,  
Cradled in your mother's arms.  
Sweetly singing, gently rocking,  
Mother keeps you safe from harm.

Lullaby, sing lullaby.  
Sleep, baby, sleep 'til break of day.  
May your dreams all be sweet, gentle and mild.  
Slumber in peace and love, holy child.

Starlight fills the winter sky  
In radiant beauty shining bright.  
Sleep my dear one, cradled gently  
In your mother's arms tonight.

Lullaby, sing lullaby.  
Sleep, baby, sleep 'til break of day.  
May your dreams all be sweet, gentle and mild.  
Slumber in peace and love, holy child.

Dave and Jean Perry



## IV

The Light Eternal, breaking through,  
Made the world to gleam anew;  
His beams have pierced the core of night,  
He makes us children of the light.  
Alleluia!

Aria from *Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ*, BWV 91

J. S. Bach

Gott, dem der Erden Kreis zu klein,  
Den weder Welt noch Himmel fassen,  
Will in der engen Krippe sein.  
Erscheinet uns dies ewge Licht,  
So wird hinfüro Gott uns nicht  
Als dieses Lichtes Kinder hassen.

God, for whom the circle of earth is too small,  
Whom neither world nor heaven can contain,  
Wants to be in a narrow manger.  
This eternal light appears to us  
So God will not hate us  
As children of this light.

Das Wort ward Fleisch

Andreas Hammerschmidt  
(1611–1675)

Das Wort ward Fleisch  
und wohnet unter uns,  
und wir sahen seine Herrlichkeit,  
eine Herrlichkeit als  
des eingebornen Sohns vom Vater,  
voller Gnade und Wahrheit.  
Alleluia.

The Word became flesh  
and dwelled among us,  
and we have seen his glory,  
the glory as of  
the only-begotten Son of the Father,  
full of grace and truth.  
Alleluia.

John 1:14

*We stand.*

# O Sing of Christ

Concertato by Kevin Hildebrand  
(b. 1973)



1. O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,

**Choir** 2. What A - dam lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred

**Choir** 3. He came to that which was His own, But He was not re - ceived;

4. Lord Je - sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.

Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.

Yet still through Him God's glo - ry shone, And some His name be - lieved.

As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man - i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace

For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;

To these He gave the right to be The heirs of heav'n a - bove,

Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full - ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.

He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.

Born not of hu - man an - ces - try But born of God in love.

That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

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Tune: English; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

FOREST GREEN  
8 6 8 6 7 6 8 6

V

The very Son of God sublime  
Entered into earthly time  
To lead us from this world of cares  
To heaven's courts as blessed heirs.  
Alleluia!

Recitative from *Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ*, BWV 91

J. S. Bach

O Christenheit! Wohlan, so mache die bereit,  
Bei dir den Schöpfer zu empfangen.  
Der grosse Gottessohn  
Kömmt als ein Gast zu dir gegangen.  
Ach, laß dein Herz durch diese Liebe rühren;  
Er kömmt zu dir, um dich vor seinen Thron  
Durch dieses Jammertal zu führen.

O Christianity! Now then, make yourself ready  
To receive the Creator to yourself.  
The great Son of God  
Has come to you as a guest.  
Ah, let your heart be moved by this love;  
He comes to you, to bring you  
Through this valley of tears before his throne.

Magnificat and Nunc dimittis

Michael D. Costello

Magnificat

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;  
for he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.  
For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is his name;  
and his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away.  
He has helped his servant Israel in remembrance of his mercy  
as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.

Luke 1:46–55

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

Nunc dimittis

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled.  
My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people:  
a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.

Luke 2:29–32

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

## VI

In poverty he came to earth  
Showing mercy by his birth;  
He makes us rich in heavenly ways  
As we, like angels, sing his praise.  
Alleluia!

Duet from *Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ*, BWV 91

J. S. Bach

Die Armut, so Gott auf sich nimmt,  
Hat uns ein ewig Heil bestimmt,  
Den Überfluß an Himmelsschätzen.  
Sein menschlich Wesen machet euch  
Den Engelsherrlichkeiten gleich,  
Euch zu der Engel Chor zu setzen.

The poverty that God takes upon himself,  
Has destined for us an eternal salvation,  
The abundance of heavenly treasures.  
His human nature makes you  
Like the glory of the angels,  
Seating you with the angel choirs.

What Sweeter Music

Paul Bouman  
(1918–2019)

What sweeter music can we bring  
Than a carol for to sing  
The birth of this our heavenly king?  
Awake the voice! Awake the string!

### *Refrain*

We see him come, and know him ours,  
Who, with his sunshine, and his showers  
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.

Dark and dull night, fly hence away!  
And give the honour to this day,  
That sees December turned to May.  
If we may ask the reason, say: *Refrain*

The darling of the world is come,  
And fit it is we find a room  
To welcome him. The nobler part  
Of all the house here is the heart. *Refrain*

Which we shall give him; and bequeath  
This holly and this ivy wreath  
To do him honour, who's our King  
And Lord of all this revelling. *Refrain*

Robert Herrick, 1591–1674

## Sussex Carol

Setting by Sir David Willcocks  
(1919–2015)

On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring.  
On Christmas night all Christians sing,  
To hear the news the angels bring.  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should people be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad?  
Then why should people be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad?  
When from our sin he set us free,  
All for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace,  
Then life and health come in its place;  
When sin departs before his grace,  
Then life and health come in its place;  
Angels above with joy may sing,  
All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night:  
All out of darkness we have light,  
Which made the angels sing this night:  
"Glory to God we sing again  
Now and forever more. Amen."

English traditional, alt.

## VII

All this for us our God has done  
Granting love through his own Son.  
Therefore, all Christendom, rejoice  
And sing his praise with endless voice.  
Alleluia!

Chorale from *Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ*, BWV 91

J. S. Bach

Das hat er alles uns getan,  
Sein groß Lieb zu zeigen an;  
Des freu sich alle Christenheit  
Und dank ihm des in Ewigkeit.  
Kyrie eleis!

He has done all this for us,  
To show his great love,  
All Christianity rejoices in this  
And thanks him for eternity.  
Lord, have mercy!

Love Came Down at Christmas

Taylor Scott Davis  
(b. 1980)

Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas;  
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,  
Love incarnate, love divine;  
Worship we our Jesus,  
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token;  
Love be yours and love be mine;  
Love to God and neighbor,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.

Christina Rossetti, 1830–1894



*We stand.*

# O Come, All Ye Faithful

Setting by Sir David Willcocks



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

## **ORCHESTRA**

Christine Janzow Phillips, Meg Busse, and Rachel Campagna, oboes

Dianne Ryan, bassoon

Charles Roberts and Abner Wong, trumpets

Sarah Christianson, timpani

Janelle Jansen Lake, harp

Timothy Spelbring, organ

Michael D. Costello, piano

Becky Coffman, Dave Belden, Lou Torick, and Amanda Beaune, violins 1

François Henkins, Henry Zheng, and Irina Fatykhova, violins 2

Naomi Hildner, Bridget Andes, violas

Amali Premawardhana, Victoria Mayne, cellos

Douglas Johnson, double bass

## **GRACE SCHOOL 5–8 GRADE CHOIR**

Johanna Johnson, conducting

Yonah Altena

Claire Lowdon

Brynn Beals

Anders Lyle

Shelby Beals

Torsten Lyle

Maya Bourelly

Quinn McClurg

Armell Brock

Harry Miller

Aryelis Cabral

Kayse Morales

Patrick Cavanaugh

Chris Morgan

Grace Claud

Violet Ogier-Dunn

Lydia Costello

Valentina Palermo

Josiah DeBose

Finley Patel

Olivia Garcia

Charlotte Rodriguez

Grant Hodges

Avery Tan

Isaac Hodges

Elliott Theiss

Joshua Hoover

Jonah Thompson

Elicia Kelly

Adam Ver Steeg

Arsema Kumela

Sammy Williams

Nathan Lattyak

Anushka Winkler

Grey Lindberg

## **GRACE PARISH CHOIR**

Michael D. Costello, Grace Cantor, conducting

### **Soprano**

Ann Anderson  
Katrina Beck  
Janel Dennen  
Donna Dumpys  
Gwen Gotsch  
Linda Grisham  
Sarah Gruendler-Ladner  
Kate Hogenson  
Arlene Michna  
Val Poulos  
Ellen Pullin  
Liz Rudy  
Ngairé Whiteside-Bull

### **Alto**

Mary Margaret Bartley  
Karen Brunssen  
Lois Cornils  
Leanne Cribbs  
Eunice Eifert  
Lois Guebert  
Susan Hammon  
Cynthia Hill  
Martha Houston  
Johanna Johnson  
Gaye Klopach  
Christa Krout  
Jennifer Luebbe  
Marilyn Moehlenkamp  
Karen Rohde  
Irmgard Swanson  
Liz Thompson  
Helen VanWyck

### **Tenor**

Paul Aanonsen  
John Beed  
Daniel Krout  
Colin Krueger  
Justin Martin  
John Rudy  
Blaine Willhoft

### **Bass**

Douglas Anderson  
John Bouman  
Mark Bouman  
Karl Brunssen  
Jeff Cribbs  
Jake Just  
Peter Modrich  
Bill Pullin  
Greg Rohlfig

## **GRACE WOMEN'S CHOIR**

Gwen Gotsch, conducting

Susan Curran  
Stephanie Hegarty  
Jill Koski  
Sirimas Benz Kuipers  
Karen Rohde  
Renata Serpico

## **SOLOISTS**

Carolyne DalMonte, soprano  
Emlynn Shoemaker, mezzo soprano  
Ace Gangoso, tenor  
Ian Murrell, baritone

## **TECHNICAL CREW**

Bill Rohlfig, sound engineer  
Liz Hanson, video  
Al Swanson, audio

## **USHERS**

Susan Scherer  
Susan Weber  
Dick Calhoun

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