

1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Introit

1 Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
joyful, all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies,
with th'angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

Refrain:

*Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
hail, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel. [Refrain]

3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings;
mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,

born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. [Refrain]

Collect

Almighty God,
who wonderfully created us in your own
image
and yet more wonderfully restored us
through your Son Jesus Christ:
grant that, as he came to share in our
humanity,
so we may share the life of his divinity;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Isaiah 61.10 – 62.3

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of
salvation,

he has covered me with the robe of
righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a
garland,

and as a bride adorns herself with her
jewels.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in
it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness

and praise

to spring up before all the nations.

62 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the
dawn,

and her salvation like a burning torch.

² The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the
hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your
God.

Galatians 4.4–7

⁴But when the fullness of time had come,
God sent his Son, born of a woman, born
under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those
who were under the law, so that we might
receive adoption as children. ⁶And
because you are children, God has sent
the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying,
'Abba! Father!' ⁷So you are no longer a
slave but a child, and if a child then also an
heir, through God.

Luke 2.15–21

15 When the angels had left them and
gone into heaven, the shepherds said to

one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

21 After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Offertory Hymn

1 God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
for Jesus Christ our Saviour
was born on Christmas Day,
to save us all from Satan's pow'r
when we were gone astray:

Refrain:

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

3 From God, our heav'enly Father,
a blessèd angel came,
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name. [Refrain]

7 Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and fellowship
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
all others doth deface. [Refrain]

Communion Anthem – The Shepherd's Farewell

Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling,
the humble crib, the stable bare.
Babe, all mortal babes excelling,
content our earthly lot to share.
Loving father, loving mother,
shelter thee with tender care!

Blessed Jesus, we implore thee,
with humble love and holy fear.
In the land that lies before thee,
forget not us who linger here!
May the shepherd's lowly calling,
ever to thy heart be dear!

Blest are ye beyond all measure,
thou happy father, mother mild!
Guard ye well your heavenly treasure,
the Prince of Peace, the Holy Child!
God go with you, God protect you,
guide you safely through the wild!

Hector Berlioz (1803-69)