



Lux æterna

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

Hodie Christus natus est,
Today Christ is born.
Hodie salvator apparuit,
Today our Savior has appeared.

Lux æterna luceat eis Domine, cum sanctis tuis in æternum, quia pius es.
May light eternal shine upon them, O Lord, with Thy saints forever, for Thou art merciful.

I wake and feel the fell of dark, not day.
What hours, O what black hours we have spent
This night! What sights you, heart, saw; ways you went!
And more must, in yet longer light's delay.

The eternal fountain is unseen.
How well I know where she has been in black of night.
I do not know her origin.
None. Yet in her all things begin in black of night.
O living fountain that I crave,
in bread of life I see her flame in black of night.

O gladsome radiance of the holy glory of the Father immortal,
heavenly blessed Jesus Christ.
In that we now are come unto the setting of the sun,
and behold the light of evening,
we praise Thee Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
For meet it is that at all times Thou should'st be magnified by gracious voices,
O Son of God who bestoweth life, for which the world doth glorify Thee.

I long for scenes where none has ever trod,
A place where no one ever smiled or wept;
There to abide with my Creator God,
And sleep as I in childhood slept:
Untroubling and untroubled where I lie,
The grass below—above the vaulted sky.

Here thou hast a temple too;
Yet none but thieves and robbers dwell therein:
Enter, and chase them forth, and cleanse the floor
that they may never more profane that holy place.

Drop down, ye heavens from above:
and let the skies pour down righteousness.
Let the earth open:
and let them bring forth salvation.
The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the firmament showeth his handiwork.
Drop down, ye heavens from above
and pour down salvation.

Bow down, archangels, in your dim abode:
Before you were, or any hearts to beat,
Weary and kind one lingered by His seat;
He made the world to be a grassy road
Before her wandering feet.

A Spotless Rose is blowing,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter,
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid;
For through our God's great love and might,
The Blessed Babe she bare us
In a cold, cold, winter's night.

That glorious form, that light insufferable,
And that far-beaming blaze of majesty,
Here with us to be,
Forsook the courts of everlasting day,
And chose with us a darksome house of mortal clay.

Come, we shepherds, whose blest sight
Hath met Love's noon in nature's night;
Come, lift we up our loftier song,
And wake the sun that lies too long.

O day full of grace, which we behold, now gently to view ascending;
Thou over the earth thy reign unfold, good cheer to all mortals lending,
That children of Light in every clime may prove that the night is ending.

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

1. All

**Oh, come all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the king of angels:
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

2. Men

**The highest, most holy,
Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
Now in flesh appearing!
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

3. Women

**Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
In the highest:
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

4. All

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

(Please sit.)

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Glory be to God on high!
O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for his mercy endureth forever.
O give thanks to the God of gods. O give thanks to the Lord of lords,
to Him who alone doeth great wonders, to Him who by wisdom made the heavens.
Praise Him all His angels, praise Him all His hosts,
praise Him, sun and moon, praise Him all you shining stars.
Let everything that hath breath Praise the Lord.

Sing and rejoice!
Sing, ye faithful people,
a song of hope and great joy,
for your Savior is born.
Born in manger lowly,
He lies in Bethlehem,
Christ, the King of Glory, He is King!
Christ is our King!
Hallelujah we sing!

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.

2. All

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

Слава во вышнихъ Богу и на земли миръ,
Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace,
въчеловѣчїихъ благоволеніе.
good will toward men.

Lord Hosanna the Son of David.
Blest he that comes in the name of the Lord.
Lord Hosanna in the highest.

Hodie Christus natus est,
Hodie salvator apparuit,
Hodie in terra canunt angeli,
Lætantur archangeli
Hodie exultant justi dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Alleluia!

Today Christ is born,
Today the Savior has appeared,
Today, on earth, angels are singing,
Archangels are rejoicing,
Today the just exultantly proclaim:
Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy and they said that his name was Jesus.
He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.
The angels sang when the baby born and proclaim him the Savior, Jesus.
Wise men saw where the baby was born and they knew that his name was Jesus.
Alleluia!

All sing

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!**

Above on the mountain, the breezes are mild:
Where Mary, the mother is rocking her child.
She rocks him so gently and sweetly doth sing;
"O rest now, my treasure, my son and my King."

The baby awakens and looks to the sky,
Where angels are singing their song from on high:
"All praise to th'almighty Father in heav'n,
And to all the earth may his great peace be giv'n."

Diridiri, halleluja!

Sing lullaby to Jesus, while snow doth gently fall,
Sing lullaby to Jesus, born in an oxen stall

Sing lullaby to Jesus, born now in Bethlehem,
The naked blackthorn's growing to weave his diadem.

Sing lullaby to Jesus, while thickly snow doth fall,
Sing lullaby to Jesus, the Saviour of all.

All sing with choir

Men: **Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,**
Women: **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.

Adoramus te Christe, lux aeterna.
We adore you, Christ, our eternal Light.

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

Worship we our 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 all men,
Love for plea, and gift and sign.

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die
for poor orn'ry people like you and like I. I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

Dazed and filled with awe by angel story,
Blinded by the darkness after angel glory,
Shepherds left their lambkins on the stony hill,
Sought the holy Christ child through the night's damp chill,
Sought the revelation of God's holy will.

Awed, they knelt before the humble manger,
Worshipped they Lord Jesus, tiny godly stranger.
So will we in reverence worship at his shrine:
Jesus Christ our Saviour, truly yours and mine;
Jesus our Redeemer, holy Babe divine.

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

How blest was that gracious midnight hour, when God in our flesh was given;
Then flushed the dawn with Light and power, that spread o'er the darkened heaven;
The rose o'er the world that Sun divine which gloom from our hearts hath driven.

Lux æterna

Et lux perpetua luceat eis.

1. All sing (*please stand*)
O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet, in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

2. Women
How silently, how silently,
The wondrous Gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

3. Men
O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel! (*please sit*)

What's this morn's bright eye to me,
If I see not thine and thee,
Fairer Jesu; in whose face
All my Heaven is spread! – Alas,
Still I grovel in dead night,
While I want thy living light;
Dreaming with wide open eyes
Fond fantastic vanities.

Nobody knows the trouble I've seen. Nobody knows my sorrow.
Nobody knows the trouble I've seen; Glory Hallelujah.

Sometimes I'm up, sometimes I'm down.
Sometimes I'm almost to the groun'. Oh yes, Lord.

My soul, there is a country
Where stands a winged sentry
There, above noise and danger,
Sweet Peace sits crowned with smiles,
And one born in a manger
Commands the beauteous files.

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.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you:
 not as the world giveth, give I unto you.
Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

There is in him, some say,
A deep, but dazzling darkness: as some here
Say it is late and dusky, because they
See not all clear.
O for that night! when I in him
Might live invisible and dim.

I lay. Forgot my being,
 and on Love I leaned my face.
All ceased. I left my being,
 leaving my cares to fade
 among the lilies far away.

I sat down under His shadow with great delight,
 and His fruit was sweet to my taste.

He brought me to the banqueting house,
 and His banner over me was love.

Will your merciful love receive the lost?
The hearts upon which you long to bestow it,
 turn aside to creatures and, for the pleasure of an instant,
 ask happiness from them, instead of throwing themselves into your arms
 to accept the sweet torrent of infinite love.
Your face is the only fatherland for me.

In the sixth hour, there was darkness over the whole land as the sun's light failed. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last. And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw this he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God."

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, for love is strong as death.
Many waters cannot quench love; neither can floods drown it.

Love is the unfamiliar Name,
The intolerable shirt of flame.
We only live, only suspire
Consumed by either pyre or pyre,
To be redeemed from fire by fire.

He did in love descend
To die here for thy sake
If thou canst get but thither
There grows the flower of Peace,
The Rose that cannot wither.
Leave then thy foolish ranges;
For none can thee secure
But one who never changes
Thy God, thy life, thy cure.

All sing

**1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain:

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

**2. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.** *Refrain*

**3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessing all mine, with ten thousand beside!** *Refrain*

Look to that heaven which never night makes black,
And there, at that immortal sun's bright rays,
Deck thee with flowers which fear not rage of days.

Beloved, gaze in thine own heart,
The holy tree is growing there;
From joy the holy branches start,
And all the trembling flowers they bear.
The changing colours of its fruit
Have dowered the stars with endless Light.

Yea, were every tree endowed with speech, and every leaflet singing,
They never with praise His worth could reach, though earth with their praise were ringing.
Who fully could praise the Light of life, who light to our souls is bringing?
With joy we depart for our fatherland, and there we shall walk in endless Light.

Worldly joys like shadows fade,
When the heavenly Light appears;
For the cov'nants thou hast made,
Endless, know not days, nor years.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me!

Lux aeterna

THE NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR

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Lectors – Dr. Ailene Cole, Rev. Paul Peterson, Rev. Susan Peterson. Organist – David Cherwien.

Music heard in the 1999 Christmas Festival included works composed or arranged by Edwin Fissinger, Alexander Gretchaninoff, G. Winston Cassler, Herbert Howells, F. Melius Christiansen, Jean Berger, Paul Tschesnokov, Dmitry Bortniansky, Gustav Schreck, Neils La Cour, John Leavitt, Karle Erickson, Larry L. Fleming, Daniel Moe, Norman Luboff, Knut Nystedt, Edward C. Bairstow, René Clausen. Content 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, Susan Zarambo, and the staff of the Basilica of Saint Mary, and Father John Estrem, James Biery, and the staff of the Cathedral of Saint Paul.

Please refrain from the use of cameras or recording equipment. The 1999 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 Friday, December 24, 1999 at 8:00 PM.

Restroom facilities for the Basilica of Saint Mary are located in the education building, just north of the church. If needed, please consult an usher during congregational singing only.

1999 – 2000 CONCERT SEASON

WINTER CONCERT

Paul Brandvik, Conducting
Friday, March 3, 2000, 8:00 PM
Cathedral of Saint Paul, St. Paul
General Admission \$12, Students \$6

SPRING CONCERT

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

The National Lutheran Choir will co-sponsor *Vigil at the Millenium*, to be held Friday, December 31, 1999 at 7:00 PM at Central Lutheran Church in downtown Minneapolis. In addition to a cantor group from the choir, the worship service will feature Dr. Paul Manz as organist, and ELCA presiding bishop Dr. H. George Anderson preaching. The event is co-sponsored by the Minneapolis and St. Paul Area Synods of the ELCA, Luther Seminary, and Central Lutheran Church.

THE NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR

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Irene Satrom Yung
Naomi and Jeff Zupfer

IN MEMORY OF:
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Rev. Silas Erickson
Micah Flak
Jean Folin
Jean Fossell
Arnold Kappers
Kenneth Mitchell
George H. Niemeier
Ellenor Stroebel
Rev. Irv Tweet
Frank and Alma Whitney

IN HONOR OF:
Naomi & Steve Staruch
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RECORDINGS AVAILABLE

Two special limited-edition live recordings are available at tonight's concert.

Christmas Festival 1998, December 18, 1998

This compact disc contains the complete contents, music and spoken word, of the 1998 Christmas Festival, Larry L. Fleming and Paul W. Lohman conducting, recorded live at the Basilica of Saint Mary. Music heard on this recording includes *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* – arr. J. Sandström, *Timor et Tremor* – Francis Poulenc, *Offer Unto God* – F. Melius Christiansen, *A Christmas Carol* – Charles Ives, *Santo* – Enrique Ubieta, and *Blessed are They Which are Called* – Larry L. Fleming. The recording is packaged with a copy of the printed program from the event.

Audience Favorites Concert, May 8, 1999

This concert, recorded live at Benson Great Hall in Arden Hills, marked the retirement of National Lutheran Choir founder, Larry Fleming, from active conducting. The selections for the concert were taken from ballots cast by ticket-purchasers. The repertoire includes Fleming's arrangements of *Three About Jesus* and *Lord of the Dance*, staples of the choir's repertoire over the last 14 years. In addition, the concert featured *How Great are Thy Wonders* – ed. Paul J. Christiansen, *Beati Quorum Via* – Charles V. Stanford, *Abendlied* – Josef Rheinberger, *If We Believe* – John Goss, *Our Father* – Alexander Gretchaninof, *I Will Sing to the Lord* – Richard Felciano, *Prière* – Francis Poulenc, *Prayer to Jesus* – George Oldroyd, *Inscription from the Catacombs* – Normand Lockwood, *How They So Softly Rest* – Healey Willan, *Ain't Got Time to Die* – Hall Johnson, *I Got Shoes* – arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw, *There is a Balm in Gilead* – arr. Larry L. Fleming, *Go and Tell John* – Larry L. Fleming, *My Song in the Night* – arr. Paul J. Christiansen. This collector's compact disc is packaged with a copy of the printed program from the concert.

NEWLY RELEASED

Tree of Glory

Music for Lent and Easter

Who Is This That Appareth – Healey Willan • *Vinea Mea Electa* – Francis Poulenc • *His Eyes are Dim* – arr. Larry L. Fleming • *Tree of Glory* – Paul J. Christiansen • *Crucifixus* – Antonio Lotti • *Stabat Mater* – František Tůma • *Christe* – Krzysztof Penderecki • *Ah, Holy Jesus* – arr. Larry L. Fleming • *Surely, He Has Borne Our Grievs* – Karl Heinrich Graun • *Lamb of God* – Jon Washburn • *Create in Me a Clean Heart O God* – arr. Paul J. Christiansen • *Dona Nobis Pacem* – Josef Rheinberger • *Rise Up, My Love, My Fair One* – Healey Willan • *Peace I Leave With You* – René Clausen • *See What Love* – Felix Mendelssohn • *I See His Blood Upon the Rose* – Arthur Benjamin • *Song of the Passion* – George Oldroyd

Additional titles to be released soon:

**Heritage Series Volume IV – German
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The National Lutheran Choir has released eleven additional recordings on CD and cassette, covering a wide range of themes, composers and styles. These may be purchased at this concert or by contacting the choir at the address below.

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