

Symbols of Salvation

A Christmas Service for Children – Children’s Copy

(adapted by Marie Johnson 12-5-21)

End of hymn sing announcement - The children will remain in the nativity scene at the end of the service so that you will have the opportunity to take pictures. Please refrain from taking pictures during this special worship service.

Processional Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful (Congregation) LSB 379:1–3
(Children process in from the back with candles(battery operated) and stand in the front until the last verse when they move to sit in the choir loft.)

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Responsive Reading (Congregation)

The Christmas Meditation - (all children in the congregation and Sunday school students come to the front to listen to pastor)

Offering (We Give Thee but Thine Own - Verses 1&2)

The Message Presented by the Children

The Christmas Tree

(Point to the first Christmas tree, or project the unlit Christmas tree symbol.)

Miss Heather: Not only is the Christmas tree more than just a pretty decoration, but it is also a symbol that tells God’s story of salvation. Many years ago, two trees were sometimes placed in the church at Christmastime. The first tree reminds us of our sins, for it was through a tree in the Garden of Eden that sin came into the world. God said to Adam and Eve,

_____ “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die” (Genesis 2:16–17).

Kennedy: But Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the fruit of that tree. The red ornaments on the tree remind us of that fruit and the first sin. Since Adam and Eve brought sin into the world, everyone is born a sinner. There are no lights on the tree because this tree symbolizes the dark night of sin. But Jesus came and took away the dark night of sin!

_____ “He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed” (1 Peter 2:24).

Miss Wendy: The evergreen tree reminds us of the tree that Jesus died on, because the tip of each branch is in the shape of a cross (*hold up a branch for congregation to see*). Christmas trees are green all year round, which reminds us of the eternal life we will have with Jesus one day. Even the shape of evergreen trees reminds us of Jesus. They point straight up to heaven! The Christmas tree is a symbol of salvation!

Recitation Rhyme: (all children together **from the choir loft**)

Through one tree came sin and death;

Now the world was broken!

Through one tree came life and breath:

God Himself has spoken!

Thank You, Jesus, for Your grace.

I will see You face-to-face!

Congregational Hymn: Of the Father’s Love Begotten

LSB 384:1, 3

(Children move to the steps during the last verse)

Children’s Hymn: God Loves Me Dearly

LSB 392:1, 3

God loves me dearly,

Grants me salvation,

God loves me dearly,

Loves even me.

Refrain:

Therefore I’ll say again:

God loves me dearly,

God loves me dearly,

Loves even me.

He sent forth Jesus,

My dear Redeemer,

He sent forth Jesus

And set me free. *Refrain*

The Manger

(Manger ornaments are placed on the lighted Christmas tree and the manger is moved to the center.)

Mrs. Johnson: It is said that St. Francis of Assisi set up the first live nativity scene, complete with a manger, hay, and live animals. He wanted people to focus on the birth of Jesus rather than on materialism and gift-giving. Jesus humbled Himself to be born a little human baby who was laid in a manger for a bed. Jesus is not only true man but also true God, and He is the King of kings! The manger is a symbol of salvation!

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

Korbin: This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

Leighton and Christian: And all went to be registered, each to his own town.

Isabella: 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, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

Evelyn: And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.

Elena: And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn” (Luke 2:1–7).

Children’s Song: In a Little Stable

Little Ones Sing Praise, p. 81

In a little stable
Far across the sea
Was a little Baby
Just like you and me.

*(Fingertips touch, pointing up.)
(Spread arms far apart.)
(Rock baby in arms.)
(Point out, point to self.)*

Not a bed or cradle,
Not a pillow deep,
But a lowly manger
Was His place to sleep.

*(Shake head no.)
(Lay head on hands.)
(Pat hands down.)
(Lay head on hands.)*

Shepherds stood around Him,
Angels watched with care,
For this Babe was JESUS,
Lying, smiling there.

*(Spread arms out.)
(Hand over eyes.)
(Point up.)
(Point to smile.)*

Oh, I love this Jesus,
Who was little then,
For I know He loves me,
Little though I am.

*(Hug self.)
(Pat hands down.)
(Hug self.)
(Pat hands down.)*

(Children go back to choir loft to sit.)

(Children move to the steps during the last verse)

The Angel

(Angel ornaments are placed on the lighted Christmas tree.)

Miss Megan: We often hear of angels bringing a special message from God. But never did an angel have such a glorious message as on the first Christmas Eve. The angels' song announced the birth of Jesus, our salvation!

Lynna: "And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 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.

Naomi: 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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Sylvia: And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!' " (Luke 2:8-14).

Greyson: "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.'

Teagan: And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

Walter: And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

Kambree: And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them" (Luke 2:15-20).

Recitation Rhyme: (all children together)

Gloria! The angels sang,
Shining with God's glory.
All the skies with music rang
As they told their story.
Thank You, Jesus, God on high,
Sent for us to live and die.

Children's Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361:1

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.

(All children can return to their seats in the choir loft.)

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into
heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to
judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Responsive Reading (congregation)

Prayer (*other prayers and intercessions may be added*)

Benediction

(Children move to the steps)

Recessional Hymn: Silent Night

LSB 363

Children stanza 1 in German:

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das heilige Elternpaar
Das im Stalle zu Bethlehem war,
Bei dem himmlischen Kind,
Bei dem himmlischen Kind.

Children stanza 1 in English:

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

Congregation: sings remaining verses *(Children move to create manger scene)*

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