Liturgical Folk

Advent Devotional

By Ryan Flanigan



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This eBook is a devotional companion to the album *Advent* by Liturgical Folk, leading participants into a deeper contemplation of the coming of Christ. You'll want to have the album and a music player at hand while praying. The prayers are the Collects (focused prayers) from the services in the *Book of Common Prayer (1979)* for Christ the King (the Sunday before Advent begins), the Four Sundays of Advent, the Nativity of our Lord Jesus, the Epiphany, and the Baptism of our Lord Jesus. The Scriptures are the assigned readings for these services from *The Revised Common Lectionary*. The poems and songs are based on the Collects. Fr. Nelson Koscheski, who internalized these prayers for nearly fifty years as an Anglican priest, wrote the poems. His wife Judy painted the floral frame on page 14. Ryan Flanigan, along with four other composers, set the poems to music, sometimes verbatim and other times with approved tweaks. May this devotional serve you and your community throughout the Cycle of Light (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany).

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What Is Advent?

Advent is the first season of the Church Year. It begins on the Sunday four weeks prior to Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. It is the season in which followers of Jesus begin again their annual journey with Jesus from his conception to his coming again. During Advent we enter into the Story of Israel, identifying with the children of Israel held captive in their own land, longing for a Messiah to come and rescue them. It is also a season for us to ready ourselves and wait with eager expectation for the Second Coming of Christ.

Like Lent, Advent is a fresh start for Christians. It is an opportunity for us to purge ourselves of false messiahs and turn our hearts back toward the one true Messiah Jesus Christ. We live in a world of false gods and powerful kings that vie for our allegiance and often succeed at capturing our hearts. Just look at the frenetic and materialistic way our culture celebrates Christmas. If we allow ourselves to simply go with the flow, we'll be swept into the currents of idolatry and self-worship. We need seasons like Advent to help us renounce and re-order our rhythms into Christ.

Advent is also a time for us to prepare for the coming of Christ. The word "advent" means "the arrival." Jesus came to us once as a baby in Bethlehem. He will come to us again in the end. And he comes to us now by his Spirit, as we seek his presence daily and call upon his name. It is this past, future, and present advent for which we prepare this season.

So we put ourselves in the countercultural posture of silence and waiting. We refrain from the instantaneous gratification of getting whatever we want whenever we want. And we allow ourselves to feel our need for a Savior. The season of Advent can lead us in this way, and, if we choose to participate, our celebration of Christmas will be more joyful and meaningful.

Christ the King

Week of Nov. 24

Leader: The earth is the Lord's, for he made it:

People: Come let us adore him.

Leader: Let us pray.

Lord's Prayer

Readings: Psalm 46
Jeremiah 23:1-6
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

Silence

All: Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords: Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Poem: *Read aloud or quietly reflect upon "Christ the King."*

Song: *Sing or listen to "How Wonderful Is Christ Our King."*

Christ the King

by Nelson Koscheski

How wonderful is Christ our King!
All things and times and souls are his,
The high, the low, yes, everything.
The then, the now and what shall be!

He needs no gift, he gives instead.
He gave himself upon the cross,
That all the living and the dead
Might know and own his godly rule.

He who was full became the void,
The height sank to the deep abyss.
On cursed tree he was destroyed,
That hell might know his royal face.

Yet even there his rule was sure.
The infant reigned from manger throne,
The crucified from tomb secure,
And still he rules invisibly.
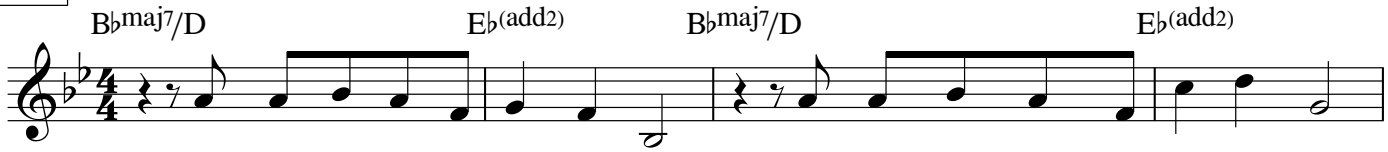
The Day will come when everything
And everyone will see his face.
Then all shall know that Christ is King
That God, true God, is all in all.

How wonderful is Christ our King!
All things and times and souls are his,
The high, the low, yes, everything.
The then, the now and what shall be!
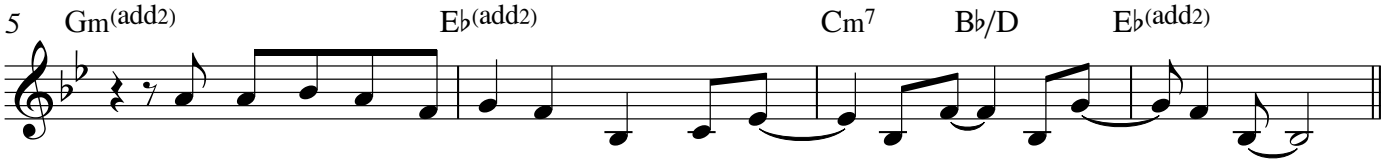
How Wonderful Is Christ Our King

Key of B♭

Verse
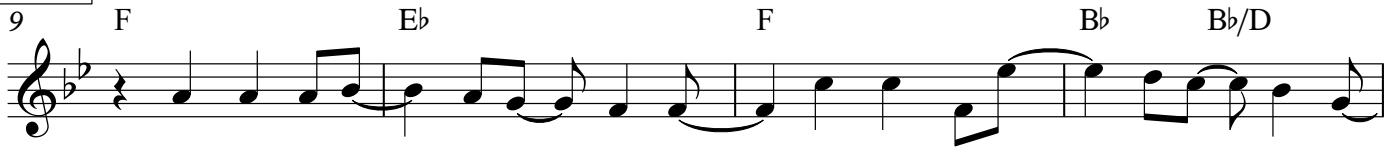


1. How won-der-ful is Christ our King! All things and times and souls are his,
2. He needs no gift, he gives in-stead; he gave him-self up-on the cross,
3. He who was full be came the void; the height sank to the deep a-byss.
4. Yet ev-en there his rule was sure; the in-fant reigned from man-ger throne,

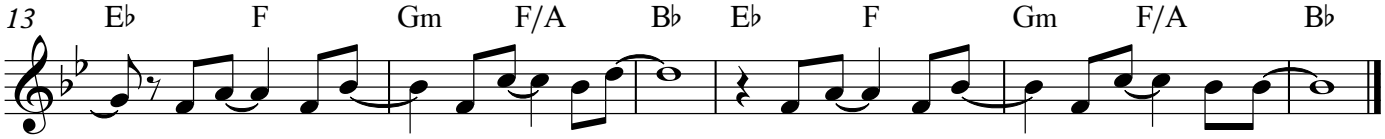


the high, the low, yes, eve-ry-thing. The then, the now and what shall be! *(to Verse 2)*
that all the liv-ing and the dead might know and own his god-ly rule. *(to Chorus)*
on curs-ed tree he was de-stroyed, that hell might know his roy-al face. *(to Verse 3)*
the cru-ci-fied from tomb se-cure and still he rules in-vis-i-bly *(to Chorus)*

Chorus
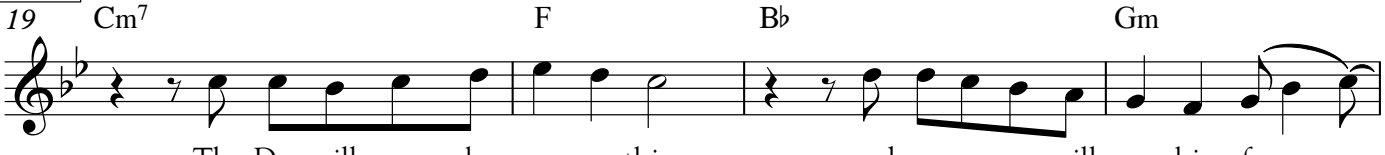


How won-der-ful is Christ our King! All things and times and souls are his,
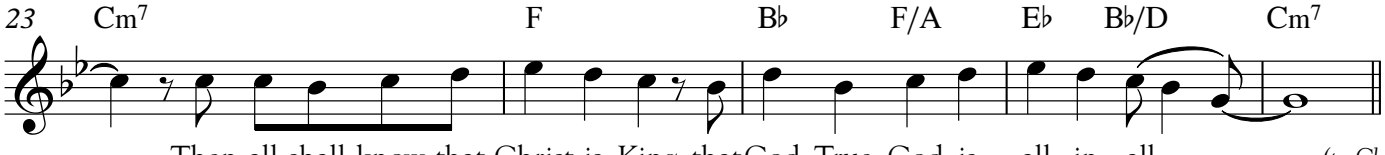


the high, the low, yes, eve-ry-thing. The then, the now and what shall be!

(1st time to Verse 3)
(2nd time to Bridge)

Bridge



The Day will come when eve-ry-thing and eve-ry-one will see his face.



Then all shall know that Christ is King, that God, True God, is all in all. *(to Chorus)*

Words: Nelson Koscheski
Music: Ryan Flanigan

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First Sunday of Advent

Week of Dec. 1

Leader: Our King and Savior now draws near:

People: Come let us adore him.

Leader: Let us pray.

Lord's Prayer

Readings: Psalm 122
Isaiah 2:1-5
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44

Silence

All: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Poem: *Read aloud or quietly reflect upon "Come, Jesus, Come."*

Song: *Sing or listen to "Hallelujah! Christ Is Coming."*

Come, Jesus, Come

by Nelson Koscheski

Come, Jesus, come to us again,
Be here as when the world began.
Come, let us see you without fear,
And love and hold you, our most dear.
Come, Jesus, come to us at last,
And end the world's long Advent fast.

The first Advent broke darkness' sway;
Christ's birth made night as bright as day.
When Jesus spoke the truth was known;
When Jesus walked the way was shown;
When Jesus died all death was slain;
When Jesus rose 'twas life's refrain.

Yet still the dark with light contends,
Until the Lord most high descends:
His people bear their cross of pain;
His people from the world abstain;
His people thirst for wisdom still;
His people seek his kingdom's will.

He will return to end the fight,
To banish all the power of night.
When Christ returns our hope is sealed;
When Christ returns the world is healed;
When Christ returns he is the prize;
When Christ returns the dead will rise.

Hallelujah! Christ Is Coming

Key of B♭

Verse

B♭ E♭ B♭

1. The first Ad - vent broke dark - ness' sway. Christ's birth made night as
2. Yet still the dark with light con tends. Un - til the Lord Most
3. He will re - turn to end the fight, to ban - ish all the

7 E♭ Gm F/A E♭

bright as day. When Je - sus spoke the Truth was known.
High des cends: His peo - ple bear their cross of pain,
pow'r of night. When Christ re - turns our hope is sealed.

13 Gm F/A E♭ Cm7 B♭/D

When Je - sus walked the Way was shown. When Je - sus died all
his peo - ple from the world ab stain, his peo - ple thirst for
When Christ re - turns the world is healed. When Christ re - turns He

19 E♭ Cm7 B♭/D E♭ F

death was slain. When Je - sus rose 'twas life's re frain.
Wis - dom still, his peo - ple seek his King - dom's will.
is the prize. When Christ re - turns the dead will rise.

Chorus

25 B♭ E♭

Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ is com - ing.

1. 2.

29 Gm F E♭ E♭ B♭

Lord, we wait for you. We wait for you.

Words: Nelson Koscheski | adapt. & ref. Ryan Flanigan & Marty Reardon
Music: Ryan Flanigan & Marty Reardon

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Second Sunday of Advent

Week of Dec. 8

Leader: Our King and Savior now draws near:

People: Come let us adore him.

Leader: Let us pray.

Lord's Prayer

Readings: Psalm 72
Isaiah 11:1-10
Romans 15:4-13
Matthew 3:1-12

Silence

All: Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Poem: *Read aloud or quietly reflect upon "Your Word Has Come."*

Song: *Sing or listen to "The Fearsome Trail."*

Your Word Has Come

by Nelson Koscheski

Your Word has come in very many ways:
Through prophet, sage, and Virgin Mother's song,
In mountain's cold or fiery desert's blaze,
By infant's voice or mighty angel throng.

An ass disclosed your will to Balaam's eye.
A desert bush drew Moses to your place.
Old Anna said the promised time was nigh,
And John saw through the clouds of time and space.

May Word and Sacrament your presence show
A glimpse of loving kindness through the veil,
Or point the way of truth that we may know,
And knowing you, not shun the fearsome trail.

Let none pass by and scorn your bleeding Word.
For, nailed to cross or humbly spoken out,
Or wrapped in shroud and in a tomb interred,
The Word is God in whisper or in shout.

Let sages' word and holy prophets' call
Your Church uphold, your people keep in peace.
Let Gospel hope and worldly kingdoms' fall
Our faith confirm and loving trust increase.

The Fearsome Trail

Key of B♭

Verse *Freely*

B♭ E♭ F

1. Your word has come in ver - y man - y ways: Through proph - et,
2. An ass dis - closed your will to Ba laam's eye. A de - sert
3. Let none pass by and scorn your bleed - ing word. For nailed to

6 E♭ B♭ E♭

sage, and Vir - gin Moth - er's song, In moun - tain cold or fier - y de - sert
bush drew Mo - ses to your place. Old An - na said the pro - mised time was
cross or hum - bly spok - en out, Or wrapped in shroud and in a tomb in -

1. 2.3.

12 F E♭ F B♭ B♭

blaze, By in - fant voice or might - y an - gel throng.
nigh. And John saw through the clouds of time and (space.) ...space. *(to Chorus 1)*
terred. The Word is God in whis - per or in (shout.) ...shout. *(to Chorus 2)*

Chorus

18 E♭ F B♭ Gm E♭

1. May Word and Sac - ra ment your pres - ence show; a glimpse of
2. Let sag - es' word and ho - ly proph - ets' call your church up -

23 F Dm Gm E♭ F

lov - ing-kind-ness through the veil; Or point the way of truth that
hold, your peo - ple keep in peace. Let gos - pel hope and world - ly

28 B♭ F/A Gm E♭ F B♭

we may know, and know-ing you not shun the fear - some trail.
king - doms' fall our faith con - firm and lov - ing trust in crease. *(to Chorus 1)*

Words: Nelson Koscheski
Music: Ryan Flanigan

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Third Sunday of Advent

Week of Dec. 15

Leader: Our King and Savior now draws near:

People: Come let us adore him.

Leader: Let us pray.

Lord's Prayer

Readings: Psalm 146
Isaiah 35:1-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

Silence

All: Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Poem: *Read aloud or quietly reflect upon "Stir up Your Power."*

Song: *Sing or listen to "Stir up Your Power."*

Stir up Your Power

by Nelson Koscheski

Stir up your power, Lord, uphold the weak.
Make bent things straight, Lord,
and straight things make true.
Let even fools learn what the wise ones seek.
Rekindle all love and all hearts renew.

Stir up your power, Lord to clear our way.
Straighten the path of our wandering walk.
Turn dark night's guilt into penitent day.
Let peaceful prayer replace our idle talk.

Stir up your power, Lord to take your throne.
Today show the world what has always been.
That our eyes may see what our faith has known,
That heaven and earth may be freed from sin.

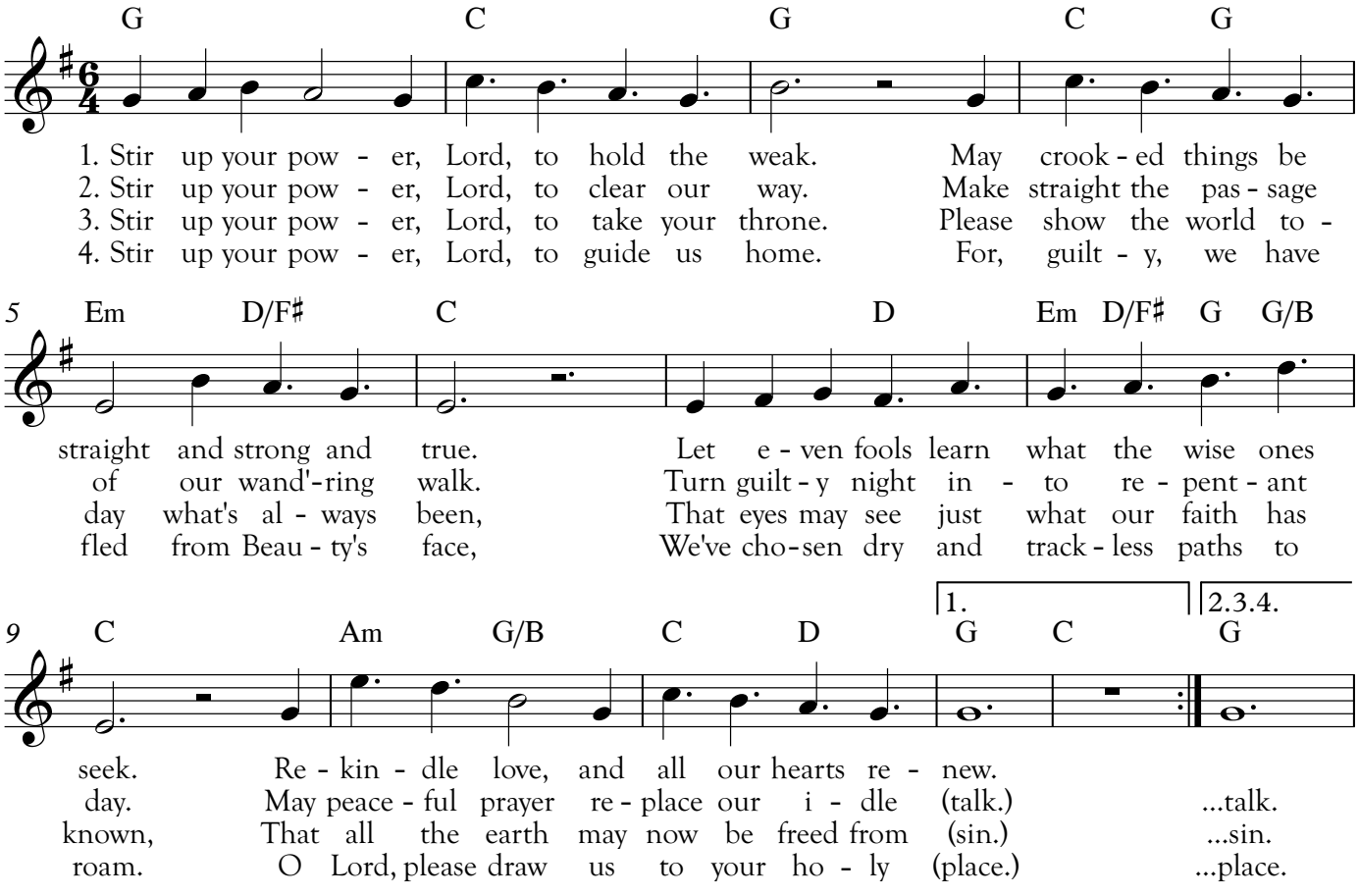
Stir up your power, Lord to guide us home.
For, guilty, we've turned and fled from your face,
In dry trackless paths we've chosen to roam.
Draw us, dear Lord, to your heavenly place.

Come, Jesus, Come, as you once came before.
Blow, Spirit, blow, as you once blew before.
Bless, Father, bless, as you once you blessed before.
Teach your Church once more
to bless and adore.

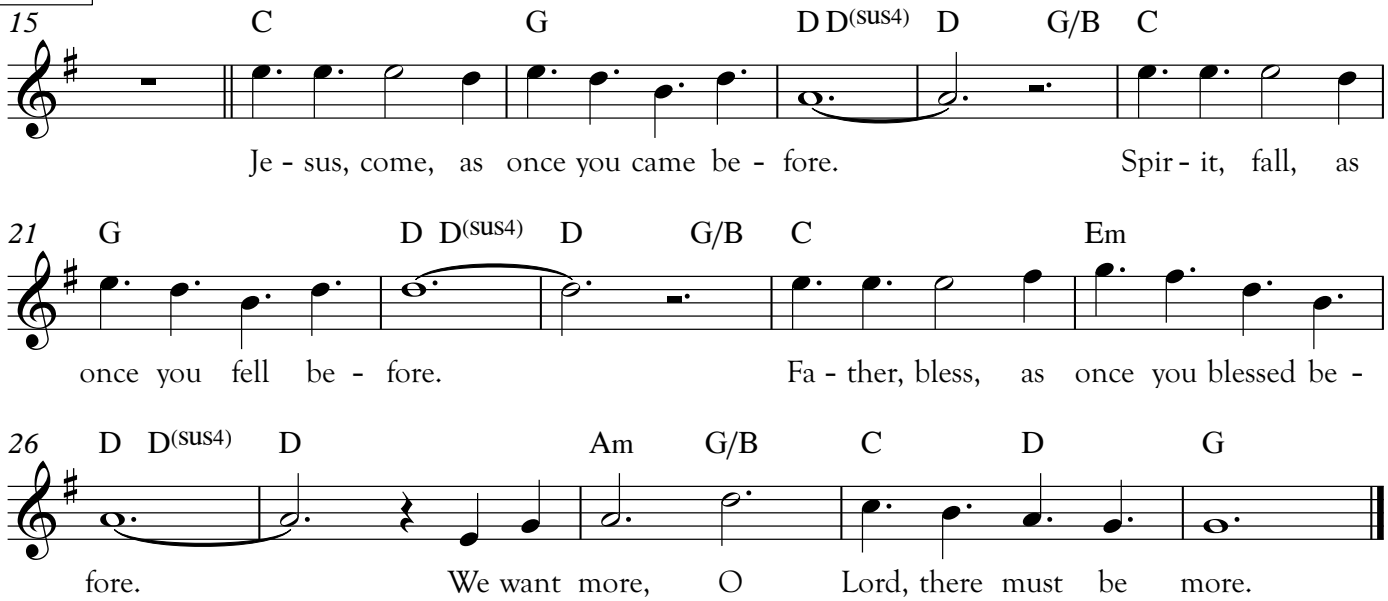
Stir Up Your Power

Key of G

Verse



Chorus



Words: Nelson Koscheski | adapt. Sean Carter & Ryan Flanigan
Music: Sean Carter & Ryan Flanigan

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Fourth Sunday of Advent

Week of Dec. 22

Leader: Our King and Savior now draws near:

People: Come let us adore him.

Leader: Let us pray.

Lord's Prayer

Readings: Psalm 80
Isaiah 7:10-16
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-25

Silence

All: Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Poem: *Read aloud or quietly reflect upon "Come!"*

Song: *Sing or listen to "When He Arrives."*

Come!

by Nelson Koscheski

Your presence, Lord, is cleansing grace;
Forgiveness, yes, but more than that.
Our death with life you would replace
That we might sing, "Magnificat!"

Come daily, Lord, to shape our mind
That consciousness may host your Son,
So his return may in us find
A dwelling place, a mansion won.

Come, Spirit Fire, burn up our dross.
Make straight what Satan bent and marred.
Repair our parents' ancient loss.
May Jesus find our doors unbarred.

Come, Father, come and daily build
A Christ-like lodge within our lives
That everyone whom you have filled,
May welcome Christ when he arrives.

When He Arrives

Key of D

Verse

D Bm G

Your pres-ence, Lord, is cleans-ing grace. For-give-ness, yes, but

7 Em D Bm

more than that. Our death with life you would re-place,

12 G Em

That we might sing mag - ni - fi - cat.

Chorus 1

17 G D A

Come dai - ly, Lord, to shape our mind, That con - scious

22 Bm G D

ness may host your Son, So his re - turn may in us find

28 A 1. Bm

A dwell-ing place, a man - sion won.

33 Em 2. Bm

(man)sion won.

Chorus 2

2 39 G D A

Come Spi-rit fire, burn up___ our_ dross.__ Make straight what Sa - tan bent

45 Bm G D

__ and marred.__ Re-pair our par - ents' an - cient_ loss.

50 A Bm

__ May Je - sus find our doors__ un - barred.__

Chorus 3

55 G D A

Come Fa-ther, come and dai - ly__ build__ A Christ-like lodge with in_

61 Bm G D

__ our lives,__ That each soul with your good - ness__ filled

66 A Bm G

__ May wel-come Christ when he___ ar - rives.__

Ending

72 D A

Oh__ Oh__

76 Bm G

When he___ ar - rives.__ *(Repeat 3x)*

Words: Nelson Koscheski
Music: Ryan Flanigan

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The Nativity of Our Lord

Week of Dec. 25

Leader: Alleluia. To us a child is born:

People: Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

Leader: Let us pray.

Lord's Prayer

Readings: Psalm 98
Isaiah 52:7-10
Hebrews 1:1-12
John 1:1-14

Silence

All: Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born [this day] of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Poem: *Read aloud or quietly reflect upon "Nativity."*

Song: *Sing or listen to "Our Lady Sings Magnificat."*

Nativity

by Nelson Koscheski

Our Lady sings Magnificat.
Her spirit soars in fullest praise.
The Son of God is born this day
And angels mighty anthems raise.

For Mary's joy is now brought forth.
Messiah's birth all blessings raise.
The Child is resting quietly
And Joseph sings his song of praise.

A donkey, cow and sheep are near.
All things that are now sing his praise
And future hopes await their time
To open throats and voices raise.

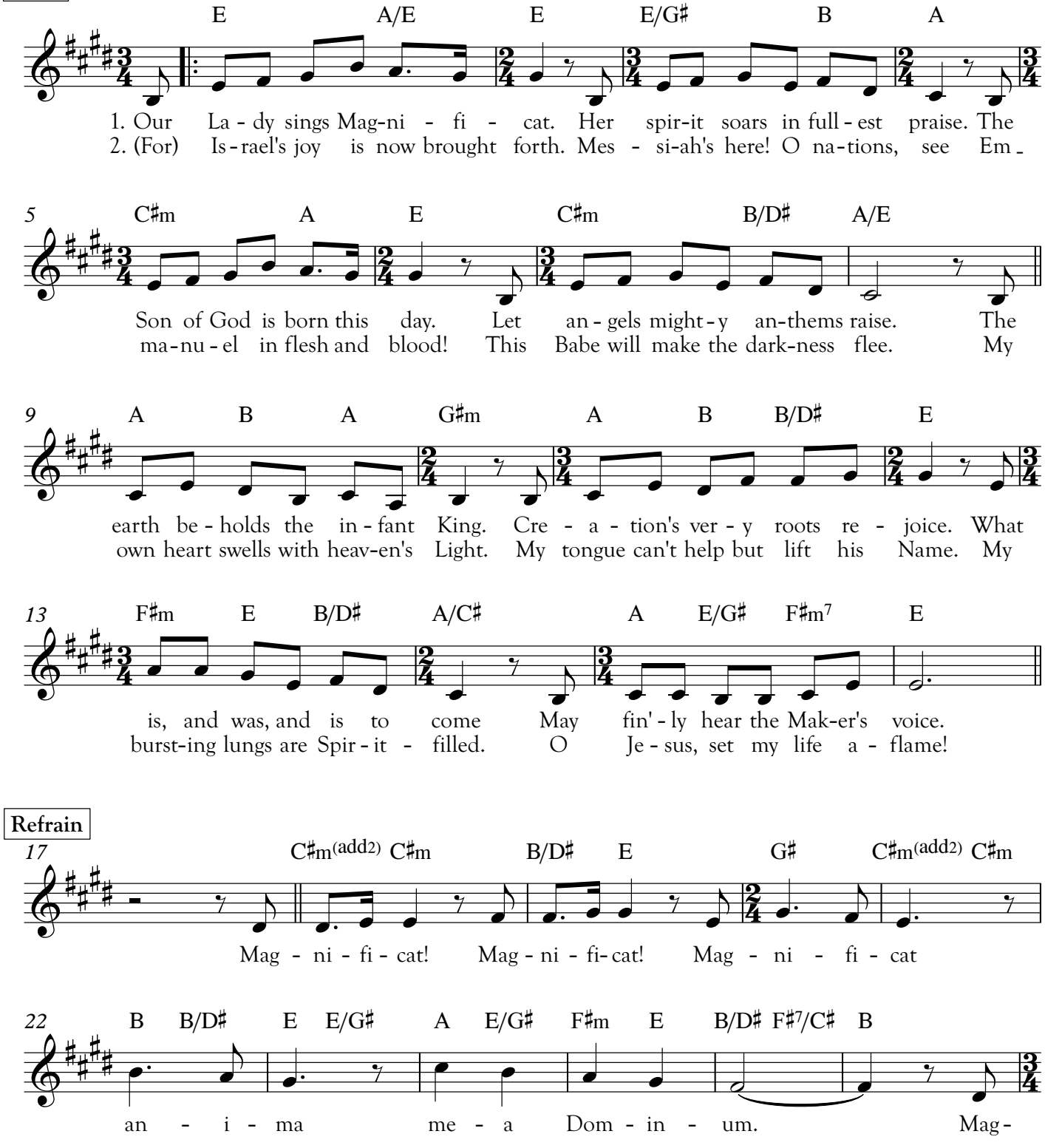
My own heart swells with loving joy.
My tongue can't wait his name to raise.
My bursting lungs are Spirit-filled.
My mind's ablaze with Jesus' praise.

Our Lady sings Magnificat.
Her spirit soars in fullest praise.
The Son of God is born this day
And angels mighty anthems raise.
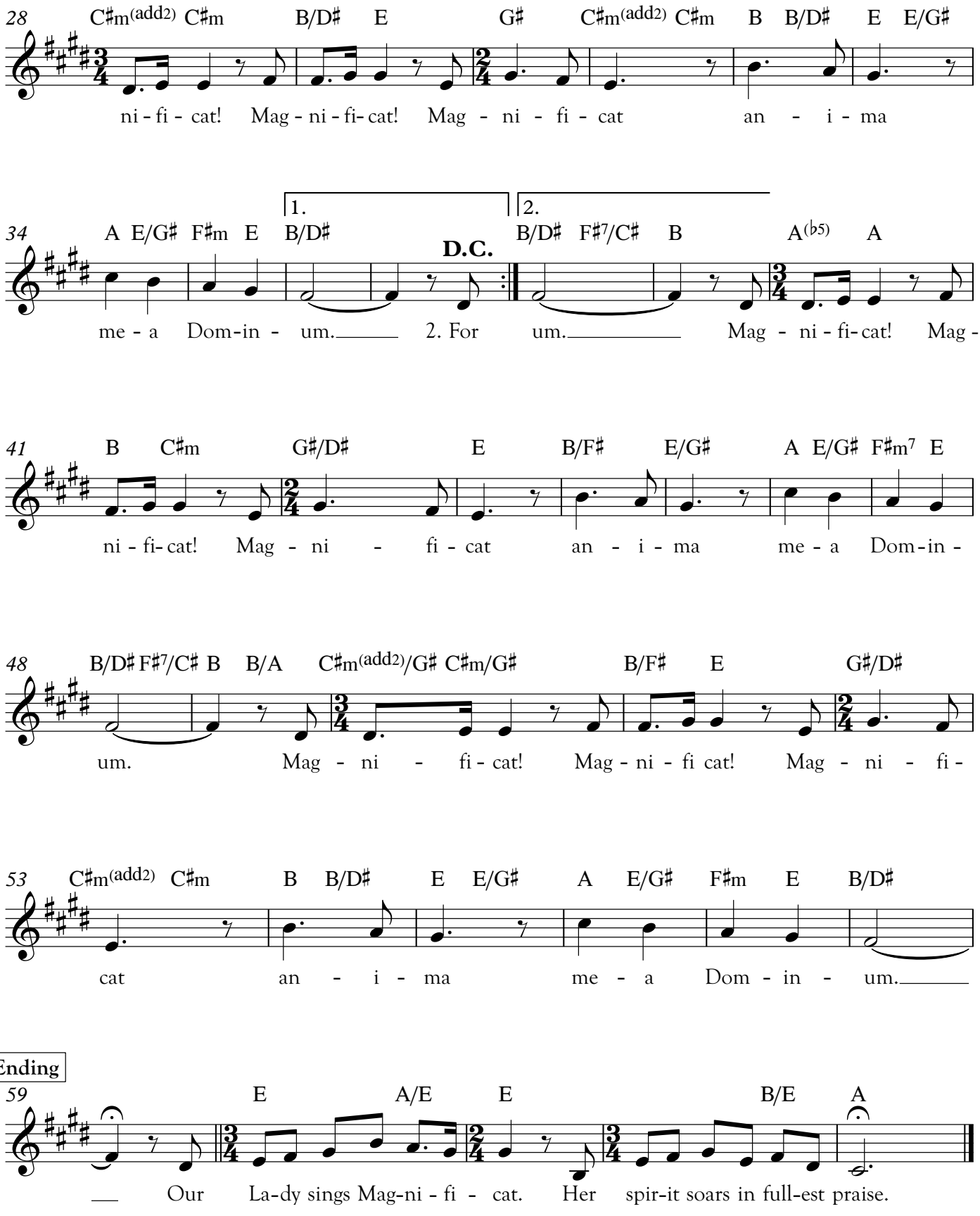
Our Lady Sings Magnificat

Key of E

Verse



Refrain



Words: Nelson Koscheski | adapt. Ryan Flanigan & Jennie Lee Riddle
Music: Ryan Flanigan & Jennie Lee Riddle

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The Epiphany

Week of Jan. 6

Leader: The Lord has shown forth his glory:

People: Come let us adore him.

Leader: Let us pray.

Lord's Prayer

Readings: Psalm 72
Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Silence

All: O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the Peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Poem: *Read aloud or quietly reflect upon "Litany of Light (Part III)."*

Song: *Sing or listen to "Rejoice, All You!"*

Litany of Light (Part III) *

by Nelson Koscheski

Rejoice, all you who've seen God's light.
No darkness shall defeat your sight
For Christ has shown himself to you
In cleanest line and brightest hue.

In darkest gloom of Adam's fall,
When sin had stolen sight from all,
There was no flash of radiance,
No sign of God's good providence.

But one day in a conquered land
Beneath the Tax-man's heavy hand
The unborn Light took fleshly clothes
And barren Isr'el bore a rose.

So there came forth from David's town
A brighter claimant for his crown;
There was no longer need for throne,
For brilliant light replaced the stone!

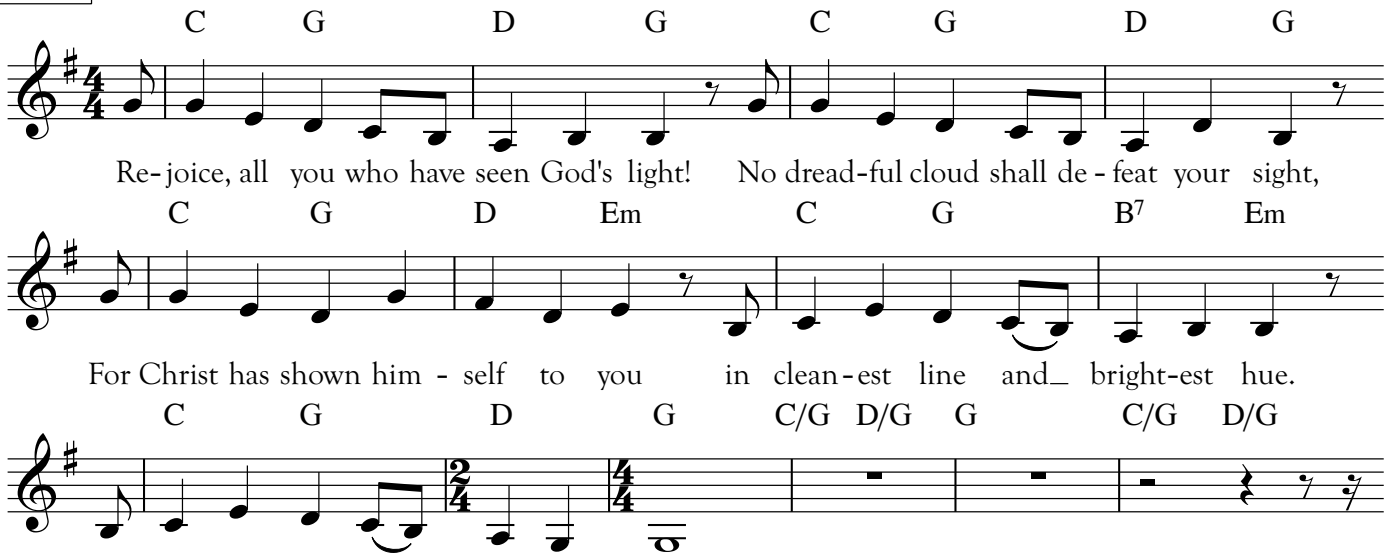
And so in heaven's courts today
The Babe who in a manger lay
In all his risen glory shows
The Light from which all true light flows.

* *Parts I & II are included on pages 30-31.*

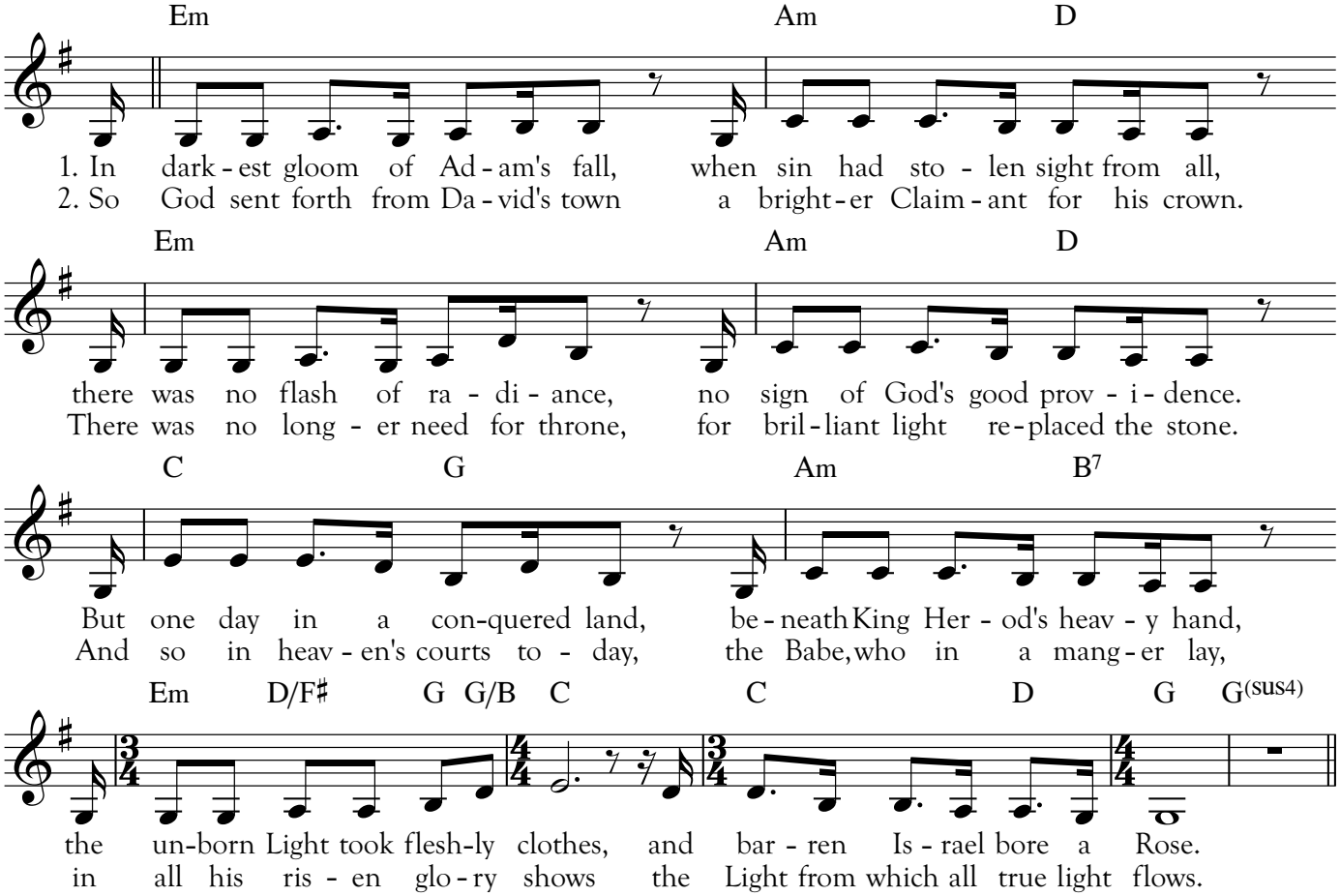
Rejoice, All You!

Key of G

Chorus



Verse *Freely*



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Music: Caroline Cobb & Ryan Flanigan

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The Baptism of Our Lord

Week of Jan. 12

Leader: The Lord has shown forth his glory:

People: Come let us adore him.

Leader: Let us pray.

Lord's Prayer

Readings: Psalm 29
Isaiah 42:1-9
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

Silence

All: Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Poem: *Read aloud or quietly reflect upon "Reborn."*

Song: *Sing or listen to "Reborn"*

Reborn

by Nelson Koscheski

Child, you have come to Jesus' knee,
Borne by those who love you.
Jesus said, " Let them come to me."
And now he makes you new.

Though new to life you'll be reborn
Within the wat'ry tomb
You'll die with him and be true-born
From Christ's most holy womb.

What you receive from him this day
Your lips must claim as true,
So as you live beneath his sway
Trust him in all you do.
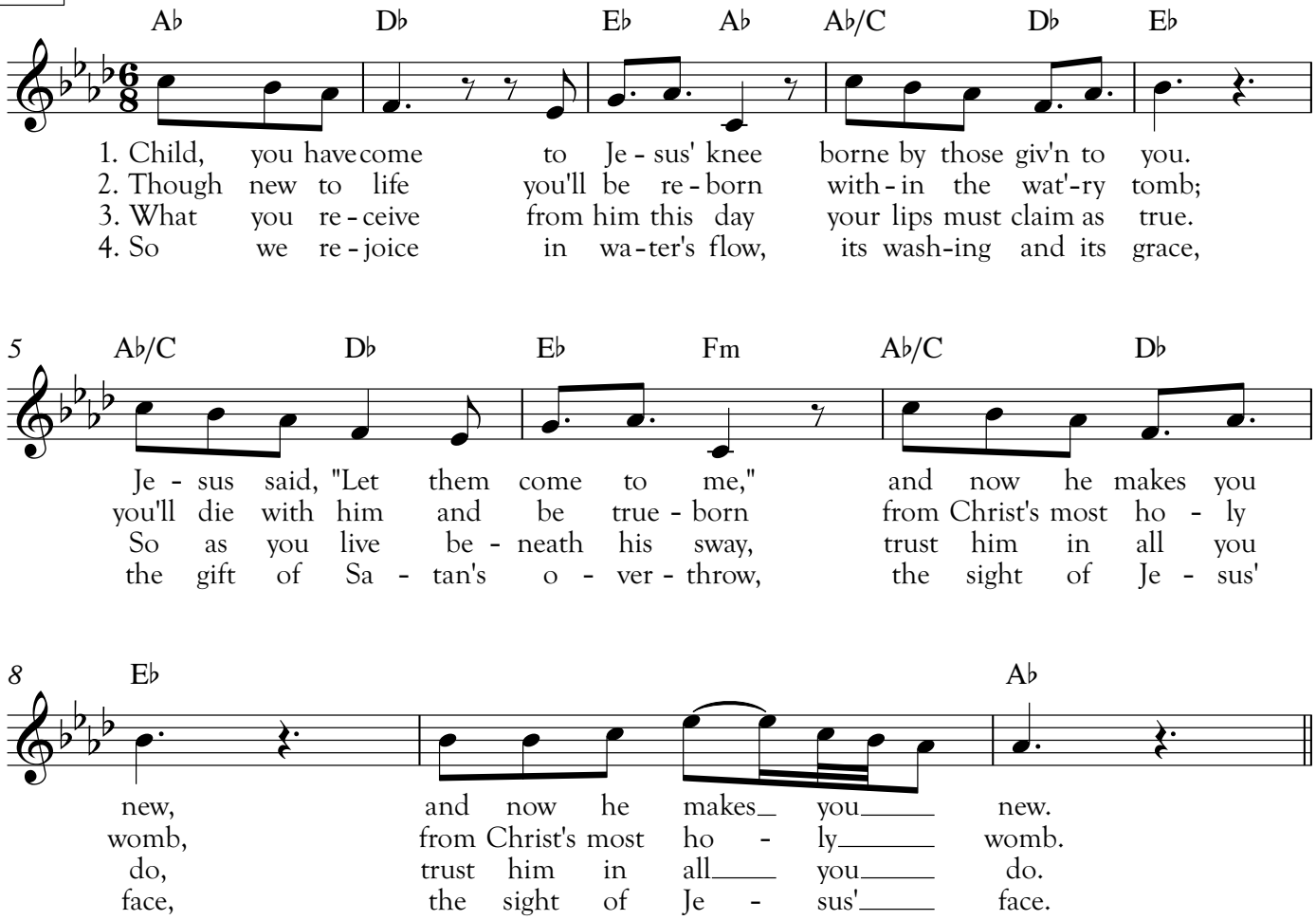
So we rejoice in water's flow,
Its washing and its grace:
The gift of Satan's overthrow.
The sight of Jesus' face.

Alleluia, all you reborn.
Praise him who saves your soul.
All you whom Jesus does adorn
Press on toward heaven's goal.

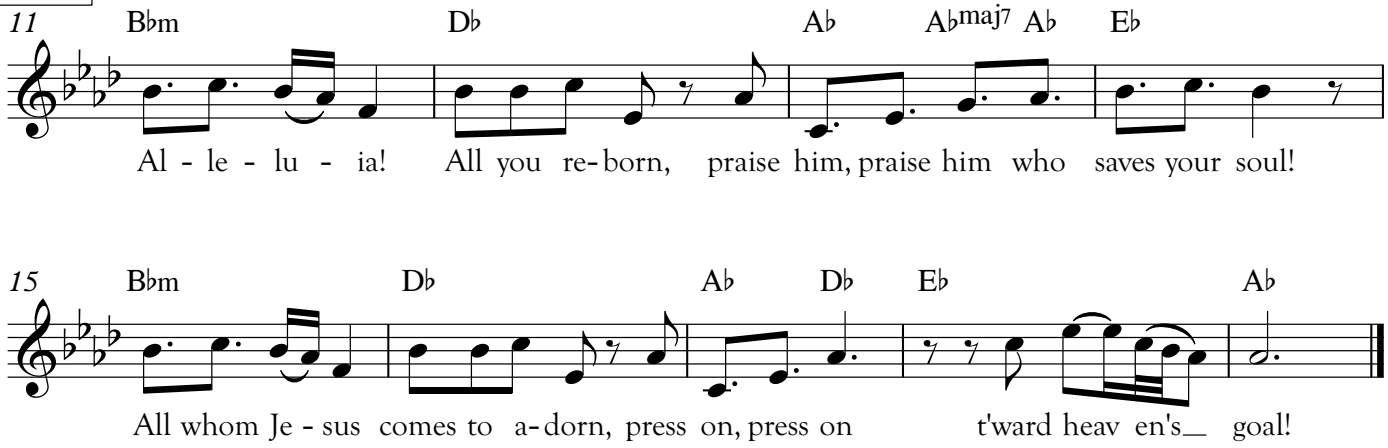
Reborn

Key of A♭

Verse



Chorus



Words: Nelson Koscheski | adapt. Sean Carter & Ryan Flanigan
Music: Sean Carter & Ryan Flanigan

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Litany of Light (Part I)

by Nelson Koscheski

O great epiphany of light,
Enlighten all your people.
O gracious Jesus, brightest light,
Enlighten all your people.
O eloquent and lovely light,
Enlighten all your people.
O beauteous and lively light,
Enlighten all your people.
O elegant and tasteful light,
Enlighten all your people.
O gentle and kindly light,
Enlighten all your people.
O chivalrous and gallant light,
Enlighten all your people.
O kind and amiable light,
Enlighten all your people.
O courteous and zestful light,
Enlighten all your people.
O genial and courtly light,
Enlighten all your people.
O cheerful, sparkling, glowing light,
Enlighten all your people.
O holy epiphany of light,
Enlighten all your people.

Litany of Light (Part II)

by Nelson Koscheski

O Lord, who spoke creation's light,
Banish all our darkness, Lord.
O you, the Father's true delight,
Banish all our darkness, Lord.
O day star of the new day bright,
Banish all our darkness, Lord.
O Father's gift and oversight,
Banish all our darkness, Lord.
O logos of the Lord's insight,
Banish all our darkness, Lord.
O righteous one whose ways are right,
Banish all our darkness, Lord.
O healer who gives demons fright,
Banish all our darkness, Lord.
O changer of stained robes to white,
Banish all our darkness, Lord.
O star who caught the Magi's sight,
Banish all our darkness, Lord.
O you who are true worship's rite,
Banish all our darkness, Lord.
O Lord, who holy knights bedight,
Banish all our darkness, Lord.
O great epiphany of light,
Banish all our darkness, Lord.