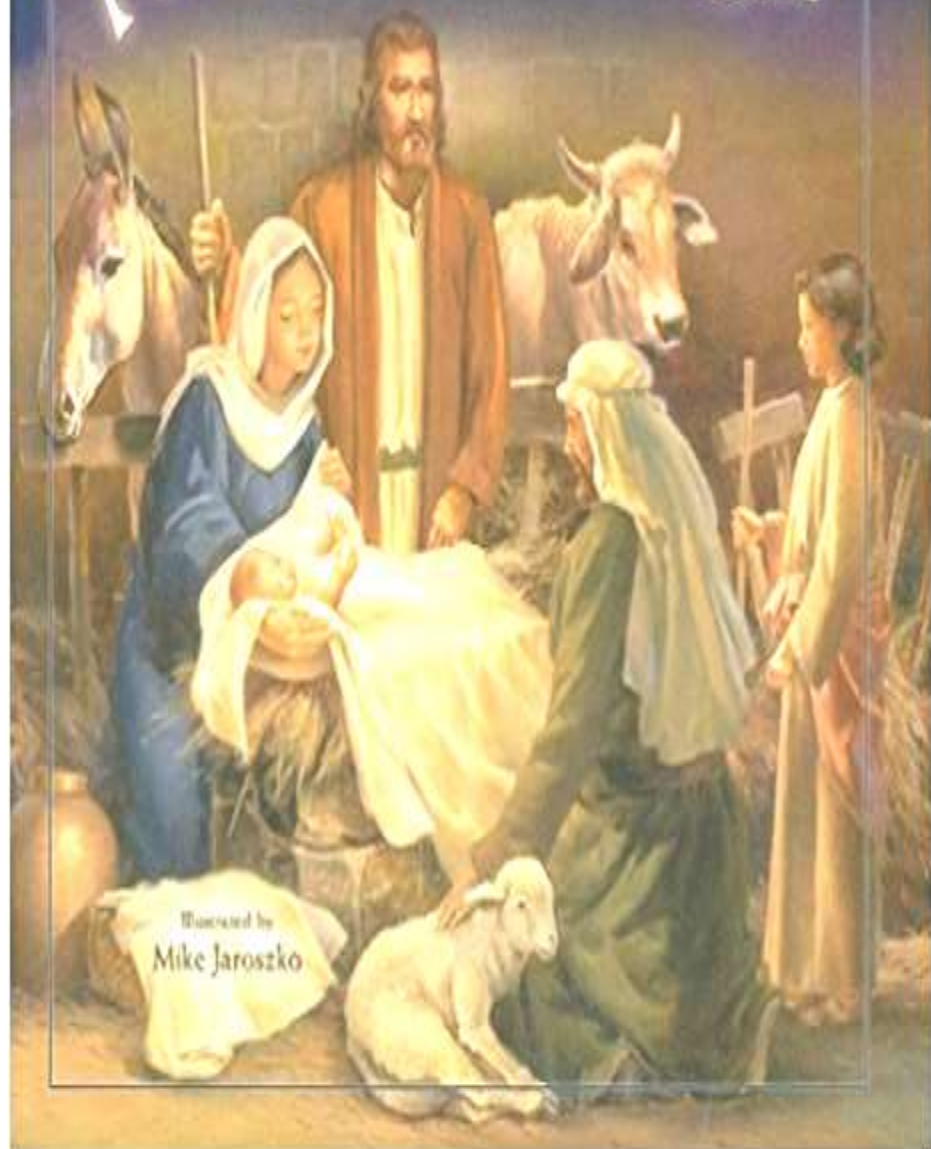


# Away in a Manger



Illustrated by  
Mike Jaroszko

# Away in a Manger

A Christmas Program for Young Children

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*St. John Sunday School presents:*

*Away in a Manger*

*December 24, 2017*

*6:30 PM Service*

**Prelude Music: J.Burns Cowley**

**Processional**

*As the children walk down the aisle, the CONGREGATION SINGS:*

*“Joy to the World”*

*(Some of the CHILDREN will wear angel costumes and REMAIN STANDING IN FRONT until after the second song, God Loves Me Dearly)*

***“Joy to the World”***

*(LBW #37)*

1. 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,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

## **Invocation-KD**

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

C: Amen.

## **Prayer-KD**

Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.  
(The Nativity of Our Lord, *LSB Altar Book*, p. 752)

**Wanda:** Tonight, in word and song, the children will help us to discover what is found “away in a manger” and will lead us to discover the rich gifts that come to us in and through Jesus Christ. We will see that, indeed, there is more in the manger than “just” a newborn baby:

- In the manger, the promise of God to send a Savior is fulfilled for us.
- In the manger, Our Lord is truly human—one of us, among us, and for us.
- In the manger, we see the loving humility of our God, who came down to earth to die and rise again for us.

**Wanda:** All these amazing gifts are found in that little manger, for us, and come to us now!

- The Word of God became flesh for us and is with us now through God’s Word.
- Our Lord continues to be present with us now in Holy Baptism.
- Our Lord continues to be present with us now in the Lord’s Supper, through which we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

**Reader #1:** Long ago, in the Garden of Eden, sin entered the world through the first people, Adam and Eve. In His love, God promised to send a Savior from sin and death for the whole world. In the manger that promise is fulfilled. Jesus is the Savior of the world!

*(Take the first symbol, a globe with a paper cross attached to it, out of the manger and unwrap it, holding it up for all to see. Give the globe to a child to place under the Christmas tree)*

**Children:** “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

## ***“God Loves Me Dearly”***

*Children sing*

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.

**CONGREGATION SINGS:**

**He sent forth Jesus,  
My dear Redeemer,  
He sent forth Jesus  
And set me free.**

*Refrain:*

**Therefore I'll say again:  
God loves me dearly,  
God loves me dearly,  
Loves even me.**

**CHILDREN SIT IN PEWS ON RIGHT SIDE**

**Reader #2:** God's Word declares, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

**Children: STAND, FACE AUDIENCE AND SAY:** To us a child is born!

**Reader #3:** In the manger, our Lord became truly human. He is both Son of God and Son of Man!

**Reader #3 continued: Scripture reading:** "In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 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. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 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)

*Mary and Joseph enter, and Mary lays Baby Jesus in the manger*

**Children: STAND, FACE AUDIENCE AND SAY:** She laid Him in a manger.  
(Children remain standing and sing)

## **“Away in a Manger”**

(LBW #67v.:1-2)

*Children sing*

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
(Hold hands together under one side of head.)

The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
(Hold hands together under other side of head.)

The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
(Open and shut palms in front, making “stars.”)

The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.  
(Cradle arms in front as if holding a baby.)

**CONGREGATION SINGS:**

2. **The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**READER #4 Scripture Reading:** “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 fear. And the angel said to them, ‘Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a 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.’” (Luke 2:8–11)

SHEPHERDS ENTER and stand to the side of the nativity scene ????

**Children STAND AND SAY:** Fear not!

**CONGREGATION SINGS:**

### **“Silent Night”**

(LBW #65:1-2)

1. **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.**
2. **Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**READER #5 --Scripture Reading:** ““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 2:12–14)

**Children – STAND AND SAY:** Glory to God in the highest!  
THEN ANGELS GO TO EACH SIDE OF NATIVITY SCENE

***“Angels We Have Heard on High”***

*(LBW #71)*

*Children sing*

1. Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain:*

Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**CONGREGATION SINGS:**

2. **Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav’nly song?  
*Refrain.***

3. **Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
*Refrain.***

**READER #6 Scripture Reading:** “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.’ 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. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.” (Luke 2:15–19)

**Children STAND AND SAY:** Let us go . . . and tell!

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## **“Go Tell It on the Mountain”**

(LBW #70:1)

(Children sing refrain and stanza 1; adults join on second refrain.)

*Refrain:*

Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and ev’rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching  
O’er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light.

*CONGREGATION SINGS:*

*Refrain:*

**Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and ev’rywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!**

**READER #7:** The humility of God comes to us in the manger. God humbled Himself, taking on our human form, to live among us, suffer, and die for the sins of the world.

*(Take the third symbol, a crucifix or picture of Jesus on the cross, out of the manger and unwrap it and hold it up for all to see. Give it to a child to place under the tree.)*

**READER #8-- Scripture Reading:** God’s Word tells us, “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:5–11)

**Children: STAND, FACE AUDIENCE AND SAY:** God humbled Himself.



## ***“In a Little Stable”***

*Children sing*

1. In a little stable                    *(Hold hands in front, fingertips together, pointing up.)*  
Far across the sea                    *(Shade eyes with one hand.)*  
Was a little Baby                    *(Cradle arms in front as if holding a baby.)*  
Just like you and me.                *(Point to audience, then point to self.)*
2. Not a bed or cradle,                *(Hold hands together under one side of head.)*  
Not a pillow deep,                    *(Switch hands to other side of head.)*  
But a lowly manger                    *(Hold hands together in front, palms up and cupped.)*  
Was His place to sleep.                *(Hold hands together under one side of head.)*
3. Shepherds stood around Him, *(Swing one arm out to side and around to front.)*  
Angels watched with care,        *(Swing other arm out to side and around to front.)*  
For this Babe was Jesus,            *(Point to heaven.)*  
Lying, smiling there.                *(Cradle arms in front as if holding a baby.)*
4. Oh, I love this Jesus,                *(Cross arms over heart.)*  
Who was little then,                *(Hold hands in front, palms down.)*  
For I know He loves me, *(Cross arms over heart.)*  
Little though I am.                    *(Hold hands in front, palms down.)*

**READER #9** : In the manger, our Heavenly Father gave to us His Heavenly Son who, dying for our sins, rose from the grave so that we won't have a death like His!

*(Take the fourth symbol, an empty cross, out of the manger and unwrap it and place under tree?)*

**READER #10 --Scripture Reading:** “According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (1 Peter 1:3)

**Children: STAND, FACE AUDIENCE AND SAY:** Living hope!

**READER #11:** Christ continues to dwell among us in the Church through His Word and Sacraments. Jesus is called the Word, the Word by which everything was made. In the manger, the Word became flesh in the person of Jesus! Jesus continues to be revealed to us in the Holy Bible.

*(Take the fifth symbol, a Bible, out of the manger and unwrap it, hold it up for all to see, and place under the tree.)*

**READER #12 --Scripture Reading:** John 1:14 tells us, “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

**Children: STAND, FACE AUDIENCE AND SAY:** The Word became flesh.

**CONGREGATION SINGS:**

**“What Child Is This”**

*(LBW #40:1-2)*

- 1. 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!**
- 2. Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,  
The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
The babe, the son of Mary!**

**READER #13:** In Baptism, Jesus comes to us and makes us His own dear children, washing away our sin and giving us the gift of faith!

*(Take the sixth symbol, a shell symbol of Baptism, out of the manger and unwrap it and place under the tree)*

**READER #14 --Scripture Reading:** God’s Word proclaims, “In Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Galatians 3:26–27)

**Children: STAND, FACE AUDIENCE AND SAY:** We are sons of God!

**READER #15 :** In the Lord’s Supper, Jesus feeds us with His own body and blood, through which we receive forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, gifts for all eternity!

*(Take the seventh symbol, a chalice and paten, out of the manger and unwrap it, and place under the tree.)*

**READER #16 --Scripture Reading:** “Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread . . . and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body.’ And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink of it, all of you, for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.’” (Matthew 26:26–28)

**Children: STAND, FACE AUDIENCE AND SAY:** We are forgiven!

**CONGREGATION SINGS:**

**“Away in a Manger”**

*(LBW #67:3)*

- 3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.**

**READER #17:** God’s Word, Baptism, and the Lord’s Supper are gifts that come to us in God’s house, the church. Through these, our Lord Jesus is close by us forever.

*(Take the eighth symbol, a church statue or picture of your church, out of the manger and unwrap it, then give it to a child to place under the tree)*

**READER #18 - Scripture Reading:** Matthew 28:18–20 states, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**Children: STAND, FACE AUDIENCE AND SAY:** Jesus said, “I am with you always.”

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (LBW #60: 1,3)**

*Children sing*

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

**CONGREGATION and CHILDREN SING:**

- 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 man no more may die,**

**Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

**READER #19 --Closing Prayer – Tristan Hays**

O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (The Nativity of Our Lord, *LSB Altar Book*, p. 748)

*??Prayer from last year: Father in heaven, thank You for sending Your Son and our Savior, Jesus. Thank You for all You have done and continue to do for us in His name. For forgiveness of sin, and for joy, peace, hope and all spiritual blessings, we give you thanks. Fill our hearts with love for You and for others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen*

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE CHRISTMAS BAGS: Tristan will announce details;** (Wanda, Kathy and teachers & Ruschhaupt's help distribute)

**POSTLUDE: J Burns Cowley**



*Thank You to everyone who helped put  
our Christmas Program together &  
contributed in any way! Have a Merry  
Christmas & a Blessed New Year!*