

INTROIT

Personent Hodie

English translation

Let children's voices resound today, merrily praising Him who has been born,
sent by almighty God and brought forth from a virgin's womb.

Let all priests just like children sing like angels: "You have come to the world;
I pour out praises to you. Therefore, glory to God in the highest!"

~ Medieval Latin carol

SONG OF PRAISE

Hail the Blest Morn!

Hail the blest morn, see the great Mediator,
Down from the regions of glory descend!
Shepherds, go worship the babe in the manger,
Lo for his guard the bright angels attend.

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Shine on our darkness and lend us thine aid.
Star in the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer was laid.

Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies his bed with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore him, in slumber reclining,
Wise men and shepherds before him do fall.

Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
Odors of Edom and offerings divine?
Gems from the mountain, and pearls from the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest, and gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation;
Vainly with gold we his favor secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

~ *Christian Hymnal*, 1875

ANTHEM AFTER SERMON

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

Almighty God, your word is cast
like seed upon the ground,
Now let the dew of heav'n descend
and righteous fruits abound.

Let not our selfishness and hate
this holy seed remove,
But give it root in every heart
to bring forth fruits of love.

Let not the world's deceitful cares
the rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundred-fold
the fruits of peace and joy.

~ Music: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844

~ Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852

OFFERTORY

Rejoice, Ye Shining Worlds on High

Rejoice, ye shining worlds on high;
Behold the King of Glory nigh!
Who can this King of glory be?
The mighty Lord, the Savior's he.

Raised from the dead he goes before;
He opens heav'n's eternal door,
To give his saints a blessed abode
Near their Redeemer and their God.

~ Music: William Billings, 1746–1800

~ Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

COMMUNION

There Is No Rose of Such Virtue

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu. Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space.
Res miranda [a wonderful thing].

By that rose we may well see
That he is God in persons three.
Pari forma [of the same form].

~ Trinity Carol Roll

15th century English manuscript

THE ELM ENSEMBLE

Bringing together professional and amateur musicians with great sacred music and creative worship planning, the Elm Ensemble is devoted to keeping the church in dialogue with diverse voices from Christian history.

Elm is both an acronym for Early Lutheran Music—we are interested in the composers and hymn writers from Luther to Bach, including Luther himself—and a nod to the importance of the elm tree for the urban canopy of Minneapolis, where the group began. (We read somewhere that Minneapolis was almost nicknamed “City of the Elms.”)

elmensemble.org



The choir of First Presbyterian Church, South Lyon, sings with the Elm Ensemble in January.