



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19

FROM HEAVEN ABOVE - STANZAS 1,2 AND 14

From heav'n above to earth I come  
to bear good news to ev'ry home!  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to all the world, and gladly sing:

To you this night is born a child  
of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
this newborn child of lowly birth  
shall be the joy of all the earth.

My heart for very joy doth leap,  
My lips no more can silence keep;  
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue  
That sweetest ancient cradle-song.

— Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship

Martin Luther wrote this Christmas hymn for children, based on the story of Jesus' birth found in the second chapter of the Gospel of Luke. These are just three of fifteen verses! Luther's delightful vision was for a man dressed as an angel to sing the first seven verses, and a chorus of children to respond with the remaining eight. What a joyful telling of the incarnation, of the coming of God into the world! It is the proclamation of the birth of Jesus by the angels to the shepherds, and it is our delighted welcome of the coming of the Christ-child into our midst in return. Gather your family, sing this hymn, and let your heart leap with joy this Christmas!

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