

In the bleak midwinter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God almighty
Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for him, whom angels
fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

Angels and Archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim
thronged the air:
But only his mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the beloved
With a kiss.

What can I give him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him,
Give my heart.

READING: *Romans 8:28-39*

CHOIR:

O Little One Sweet
Tomorrow shall be

HYMN:

Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been
And the future years shall see.

Evermore and evermore.

At his word they were created;
He commanded, it was done:
Heav'n and earth and depth of ocean,
In their three-fold order one;
All that grows beneath the shining,
Of the light of moon and sun,
Evermore and evermore.

O that birth for ever blessed,

When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bare the Saviour of our race,
And the babe, the world's redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore

O ye heights of heav'n, adore him,
Angel hosts, his praises sing;
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before him
And extol our God and king;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore.

READING: *Mark 1:1-15*

CHOIR:

Cantata: ‘Sleepers Awake’

PRAYERS

BLESSING

FINAL HYMN:

Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand Saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia!
God appears, on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing,
Shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture,
Gaze we on those glorious stars!

Yea, Amen! Let all adore thee,
On thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the pow'r and glory:
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia!
Come, Lord, come!