

# **“I AM WHO I AM”**

## **School Christmas Service**

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✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

### **Pre-service Music**

**School Band**

**“Sounds of the Season” – James Swearingen**

**Eighth Grade Piano Students**

**Selected Carols for Christmas**

**School Choir**

**“This Little Babe” – Benjamin Britten**

This little Babe so few days old, Is come to rife Satan’s fold;  
All hell doth at His presence quake, Though He Himself for cold do shake;  
For in this weak unarmèd wise The gates of hell He will surprise.

With tears He fights and wins the field, His naked breast stands for a shield;  
His battering shot are babish cries, His arrows looks of weeping eyes,  
His martial ensigns Cold and Need, And feeble Flesh His warrior’s steed.

His camp is pitchèd in a stall, His bulwark but a broken wall;  
The crib His trench, haystalks His stakes; Of shepherds He His muster makes;  
And thus, as sure His foe to wound, The angels’ trumps alarum sound.

My soul, with Christ join thou in fight; Stick to the tents that He hath pight.  
Within His crib is surest ward; This little Babe will be thy guard.  
If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy, Then flit not from this heavenly Boy.

**Handbell Choir**

**“O Come, Little Children” – Michael Helman**

**Processional Hymn**

**“See amid the Winter’s Snow” *LSB* 373**

*Congregation and Students*

See amid the winter’s snow, Born for us on earth below,  
See, the gentle Lamb appears, Promised from eternal years.  
Hail, O ever-blessed morn! Hail, redemption’s happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem: “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Lo, within a stable lies He who built the starry skies,  
He who, throned in height sublime, Sits amid the cherubim. *Refrain*

“I AM WHO I AM”

**Sacred Infant, all divine, What a tender love was Thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss Down to such a world as this! *Refrain***

**Teach, O teach us, holy Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble Thee In Thy sweet humility. *Refrain***

*Stand*

## **Invocation**

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

C: **Amen.**

## **Prayer**

P: Let us pray.

Gracious Father, in Your great love for the world You have given us the gift of Your only Son as the Light of the nations and the Glory of Israel. Open our hearts to receive Him and sanctify our lives to proclaim Your grace through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

*Sit*

## **The Christmas Story**

**Luke 2:1-20 (ESV)**

### *Kindergarten Tableau*

G-5: 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.

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 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. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”

“I AM WHO I AM”

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!”

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. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Anthem**

**“Mary Had a Baby”**

*Kindergarten*

Mary had a baby, Yes, Lord! Mary had a baby, Yes, my Lord!  
Mary had a baby, Yes, Lord! The little child of Bethlehem was born for us.

What did she name Him? Yes, Lord! What did she name Him? Yes, my Lord!  
What did she name Him? Yes, Lord! The little child of Bethlehem was born for us.

She named the baby Jesus, Yes, Lord! She named the baby Jesus, Yes, my Lord!  
She named the baby Jesus, Yes, Lord! The little child of Bethlehem was born for us.

Where was He born? Yes, Lord! Where was He born? Yes, my Lord!  
Where was He born? Yes, Lord! The little child of Bethlehem was born for us.

Born in a manger, Yes, Lord! Born in a manger, Yes, my Lord!  
Born in a manger, Yes, Lord! The little child of Bethlehem was born for us.

**Hymn**

**“Silent Night, Holy Night” *LSB* 363**

*Congregation and Students*

G-K: 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.

**All: 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!**

**All: Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.**

## “I AM WHO I AM”

- N-1: Is this what you came to see? A cute little baby in a barn. Is this what Christmas is all about? Well, according to the great theologian Linus Van Pelt, “That’s what Christmas IS all about.” Is that enough for you?
- N-2: If that’s the end of the story, we can all go home now. But the Bible isn’t just about Luke, chapter 2, now is it? Jesus didn’t just come to be a Babe in a manger. In fact, He had much to say about who He is and why He came.
- N-3: In the Old Testament, God revealed Himself to His people many times. In Exodus chapter 3 we learn who God is. While calling Moses to be a leader, God spoke to him at the burning bush. Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?” God replied, “I AM WHO I AM.” This simple statement reveals much about God and sets the stage for us to learn more about who He is.
- G-2: In John 8:12, Jesus says, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”
- K&1: Why do we need light?
- N-4: Jesus is that light of the world. We need light because we are mired in the darkness of sin. This darkness is inescapable without divine intervention.

### *(Total Darkness)*

- N-5: In an electronic age it is hard to imagine total darkness. Maybe you have experienced it on a tour of a cave or a cavern. But before God created it, there was no such thing as light. Then God spoke and there was light. Not just light, but life: plants, animals, fish, birds, sun, moon, stars, and people. God had made a perfect world.

## Hymn

## “Beautiful Savior” *LSB 537*

### *Congregation and Students*

Grades 1-4: Beautiful Savior, King of creation,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Truly I’d love Thee, Truly I’d serve Thee,  
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,  
Robed in flow’rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
He makes our sorr’wing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,  
Bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
Than all the angels in the sky.

**All: Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration  
Now and forevermore be Thine!**

*(Images of perfect world/plants, etc.)*

N-6: We are all familiar with the story of how Adam and Eve brought sin into the world. With that sin, came darkness and death, conflict and destruction, anger and hate. It is not a darkness that we can fix by turning on a light or our cell phone. We need a light that can reveal and remove sin. That light is Jesus.

*(Images of sin)*

*(#1 – Image of light-cross)*

G-3: In John 10:9, Jesus says, “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved.”

K&1: Why do we need a door?

N-7: Jesus is the door. We need a door because there is only one way to God and that is through Jesus.

N-8: The sin that caused darkness also severed our relationship with God. This was not just a “dropped cell phone call”, it was a complete cut-off from God.

*(Images of separation)*

G-6: In Isaiah 59:2, it says, “But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.”

N-9: We needed a way back to God.

G-3: In John 14:6, Jesus says, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

*(Images of open doors)*

N-10: The truth is we are sinful and we can’t approach God in that condition. God loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to be our way back to Him.

N-11: Jesus lived a perfect life so that He could be our Doorway to His father. Because of Jesus, we can have been reconciled to God.

## **Hymn**

## **“You Are the Way; through You Alone” LSB 526**

### ***Congregation and Students***

Grades 5-8: You are the Way; through You alone Can we the Father find;  
In You, O Christ, has God revealed His heart and will and mind.

“I AM WHO I AM”

You are the Truth; Your Word alone True wisdom can impart;  
You only can inform the mind And purify the heart.

You are the Life; the empty tomb Proclaims your conqu’ring arm,  
And those who put their trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.

**All: You are the Way, the Truth, the Life; Grant us that Way to know,  
That Truth to keep, that Life to win Whose joys eternal flow.**

*(#2 – Image of open door-cross)*

G-2: In John 6:35, Jesus says, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.”

K&1: Why do we need bread?

N-12: Jesus is the bread of life. We need this bread from heaven in order to have eternal life.

N-13: There are very few people in this room who have ever gone hungry for any length of time. It’s hard to relate to starving. But in our spiritual state, how often have we gone on an endless fast: not reading the Bible, not attending church, not praying, not receiving the Bread of Heaven in the Lord’s Supper?

*(Images of hurting/hungry people)*

N-14: Jesus offers Himself as the Bread of Life not just to feed our bodies in this world, but so we can be fed spiritually and have eternal life.

*(#3 – Image of bread of life-cross)*

G-3: In John 10:11, Jesus says, “I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.”

K&1: Why do we need a shepherd?

N-15: Jesus is the Good Shepherd. We need a shepherd because we are like sheep. On our own we are hopelessly lost and cannot find anything.

*(Images of dead end signs/lost)*

N-16: A good shepherd leads sheep to food, shelter, and safety. Jesus leads us to Himself as a source of spiritual food and the way back to the Father for eternal safety.

**Hymn**

**“I Am Jesus’ Little Lamb” LSB 740**

*Grades 1-4*

I am Jesus’ little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am;  
For my Shepherd gently guides me, Knows my need and well provides me,  
Loves me ev’ry day the same, Even calls me by my name.

Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my staff and stay.  
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, Into pleasant pastures leads me;  
When I thirst, He bids me go Where the quiet waters flow.

Who so happy as I am, Even now the Shepherd’s lamb?  
And when my short life is ended, By His angel host attended,  
He shall fold me to His breast, There within His arms to rest.

N-17: Jesus is also the source of living water.

*(Images of water)*

G-6: In John 4:13-14, Jesus says, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

N-18: Jesus blesses us with the Holy Spirit who quenches the thirst of the souls.

*(#4 – Images of water and good shepherd-cross)*

N-19: Remember the cute baby from Luke, chapter 2? It is easy to forget that cute baby is God. He has always been and always will be.

*(Images of babies)*

G-6: In John 1:1, it says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

N-20: Because Jesus is God, He is able to be perfect and take our place.

G-6: In 2 Corinthians 5:21, St. Paul says, “For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”

N-21: The same Jesus who was that baby in the manger was also there when creation took place. He allowed Himself to be nailed to the cross in order to conquer sin, death, and the devil for us.

*(#5 – Image of book-cross)*

G-6: In John 1:29, John the Baptist says, “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

“I AM WHO I AM”

N-22: The price of all the darkness of our sins should have been our death and eternal punishment. But God had compassion for us. He sent Jesus as the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

**Anthem**

**“Behold the Lamb of God” – Paul Bouman**

*School Choir*

Behold the Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world.

*John 1:29*

In perfect love He dies; For me He dies, for me;  
O all-atoning Sacrifice, I cling by faith to Thee.

*LSB 452*

*(#6 – Image of lamb-cross)*

G-4: In John 11:25, Jesus says, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live.”

K&1: Why do we need a resurrection?

*(Images of Easter)*

N-23: Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life. The death of Jesus is important because it paid for our sins. The resurrection of Jesus is just as important because by it He conquered death and made it possible for us to have eternal life.

G-6: In 1 Corinthians 15:17-22, St. Paul says, “And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.”

*(#7 – Image of pomegranate-cross)*

G-2-4: In Revelation 22:13, Jesus says, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

*(Images of beginning and end)*

N-24: The life that Jesus gives us through His resurrection will last forever.

*(#8 – Image of connection of cross-cross)*

G-K-8: In John 15:5, Jesus says, “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

*(Image of vines)*

K&1: Why do we need a vine?

“I AM WHO I AM”

N-25: Jesus is the vine. We need the vine because He connects us to God. He is the source of our life and strength.

N-26: We are the branches. As Christians we are held together by Christ the vine. This keeps us connected as the body of Christ.

**Hymn**

**“Fruitful Trees, the Spirit’s Sowing” *LSB* 691**

***Congregation and Students***

Grades 5-8: Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s sowing, May we ripen and increase,  
Fruit to life eternal growing, Rich in love and joy and peace.

Laden branches freely bearing Gifts the Giver loves to bless;  
Here is fruit that grows by sharing, Patience, kindness, gentleness.

**All: Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal,  
Teach us, as the years fly faster, Goodness, faith, and self-control.**

**Fruitful trees, the Spirit’s tending, May we grow till harvests cease;  
Till we taste, in life unending, Heaven’s love and joy and peace.**

*(Image of finished cross)*

G-6: In Romans 12:5, St. Paul says, “So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”

N-27: As members of this body of Christ, we are not alone. God has placed us into a family of other Christians. This family supports and uplifts one another, spending time together in service to each other and to God.

N-28: As Christians we also bear fruit. The joyous response to God’s gift of salvation is to share God’s love with others. For in Matthew, chapter 25, Jesus says, “ ‘I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me. I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.’ ”

“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? And when did we see You a stranger and welcome You, or naked and clothe You? And when did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me.’ ”

Whether large or small, acts of love and kindness reflect the love of our Savior.

N-29: Let the baby get out of the manger. Jesus is the Light, the Open Door, the Bread of life, the Good Shepherd, the Living Water, the Word of God, the Lamb of God, the Resurrection and the Life, and the Alpha and the Omega, Eternal Life. Since He is who He said He was, we can confidently share the message of who He is with others. That is what the message of Christmas is really all about.

**Anthem**

**"Go into the World" AGPS 101**

*Grades K-8*

Go ye, go ye into the world and make disciples of all the nations,  
Go ye, go ye into the world and I will be with you there!  
I am the Vine, you are the branches, ever the fruit to bear;  
I am the Light, you the reflection ev'rywhere.

**Gathering of the Offerings**

**Handbell Class**

**"Joy to the World" – Bill Ingram**

**School Choir**

**"Joy to the World" – Aaron David Miller**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a room for Him and sing.  
Let heav'n and nature sing, let heav'n and nature sing.  
Glory to God on high, let heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, repeat the sounding joy.  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy.  
Glory to God on high, repeat the sounding joy.

*Joy to the world.*

No more let sin and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found.  
Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!

He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love.  
The wonders of His love, the wonders of His love.  
Glory to God on high, the wonders of His love.

*Joy to the world.*

*Joy to the world.*

**Hymn Sing**

**Congregation and Students**

**"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" LSB 356**

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:  
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honor thee;  
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

**Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!**

**Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
"Most highly favored lady," Gloria!**

**Oh, come to us, Abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!  
"Away in a Manger" *LSB* 365**

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**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.**

**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.**

**"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" *LSB* 380**

**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 th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th' incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**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!"**

## **Prayers**

### **Lord's Prayer**

### **Benediction**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☐ give you peace.  
C: **Amen.**

## **Recessional Hymn**

## **"Of the Father's Love Begotten" LSB 384**

### *Congregation and Students*

School Choir: 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 that future years shall see  
Evermore and evermore.

Grades 5-8: Oh, that birth forever blessed, When the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race,  
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face  
Evermore and evermore.

**All: This is He whom seers in old time Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets Promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the long-expected; Let creation praise its Lord  
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.**

**(Stand) Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore.**

## **Postlude**

**✠ GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST ✠**