

The Special



Christmas Lamb

"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" John 1: 29

TEACHER SCORE

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INTRODUCTION

Sheep play an important part in the Christmas story. We know that Jesus was born in a place where animals were kept, perhaps some sheep and lambs as well. It was also shepherds who were watching their sheep on the hills near Bethlehem who received the first good news that the Savior was born. Sheep played an important part in the Bible. Many well-known Old Testament people were shepherds by trade. The people depended on sheep for their food and clothing. Perhaps it was because of this dependency that God chose lambs and sheep to be sacrificed as a sign of the Lamb of God, the Special Christmas Lamb, who would come to offer the final sacrifice on the cross.

This worship service is designed to be presented by children in Sunday school and in Christian elementary school. The program is workable for any size group. Certainly program directors and teachers have permission to add or delete any parts which may not work well with their groups.

The service is divided into four sections: **PART ONE – Lambs Were Special**
PART TWO – Lambs Were Sacrificed
PART THREE – Mary’s Special Lamb
PART FOUR – The Victorious Lamb of God

RECITATIONS

Throughout the service there are Scripture recitations and special poems to be recited by the students.

NARRATORS

This service is written with two narrators used throughout. Feel free to customize that as best fits your situation. For very small schools it is suggested that you use adults or youth for the narration.

SONGS

Songs are provided for this service, although you may add or subtract songs as you wish. To find additional songs, visit kremerresources.com > Christmas Services. Here you can download sheet music and accompaniment MP3’s for nearly 60 songs used in past Kremer services.

Children’s Songs: *Let’s Go to Bethlehem Town*
The Lonely Shepherd Boy
Sleep, My Little Jesus
Children’s Song of the Nativity

Congregation’s Songs: *O God of God, O Light of Light*
Hark, the Herald Angels Sing
Silent Night
Joy to the World

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Processional (Congregation): *O God of God, O Light of Light*

O God of God, O Light of Light,
O Prince of Peace and King of kings:
To you in heaven's glory bright
The song of praise forever rings.
To him who shares the Father's throne,
The Lamb once slain but raised again,
Be all the glory he has won,
All thanks and praise! Amen, amen.

Deep in the prophets' sacred page,
Grand in the poets' wing-ed word,
Slowly in type, from age to age
The nations saw their coming Lord;
Till through the deep Judean night
Rang out the song, "Goodwill to men!"
Sung once by firstborn sons of light,
It echoes now, "Goodwill!" Amen.

That life of truth, those deeds of love,
That death of pain mid hate and scorn
These all are past, and now above
He reigns, our King once crowned with thorns.
Lift up your heads, O mighty gates!
So sang that host unheard by men.
Lift up your heads, your King awaits.
We lift them up. Amen, amen.

Sing to the Lord a glorious song,
Sing to his name, his love forthtell;
Sing, heavenly host, your praise prolong,
And all on earth, your anthem swell!
Worthy the Lamb for sinners slain;
Forever let the song ascend!
Worthy the Lamb enthroned to reign!
Glory and power. Amen, amen.

Invocation by Pastor

Responsive Reading

P: He who gave for us his life, who for us endured the strife,

C: *Is our Christmas Lamb today. We, too, filled with joy can say: Alleluia!*

P: He who laid on manger hay, is the Lamb we laud today;

C: *Lives in glory now on high, pleads for us and hears our cry: Alleluia!*

P: He who slumbered in the grave is exalted now to save;

C: *Now through Christendom it rings that the Lamb is King of Kings. Alleluia!*

P: Now he bids us tell abroad as the shepherd's did of old,

C: *That the Savior now has giv'n, hope that we may enter heav'n. Alleluia!*

P: Hear us special Lamb indeed, Christ, who will your people feed,

C: *Take our sins and guilt away that we all may sing today: Alleluia!*

Christmas Prayer: Lord God, we gather at this Christmas time to reflect on the day that our Savior came to earth to take our sins away. We thank you for coming into the Bethlehem manger as the sinless Lamb of God who would one day be sacrificed on the cross at Calvary. Fill our hearts with joy in his coming, this Christmas season and throughout the year, and may we share that joy with everyone. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, the Christmas Lamb who rules today in glory as the Victorious Lamb of God. Amen.

(Optional Song: Do You Hear What I Hear?)

Lambs Were Special

Children's Song: "Let's Go to Bethlehem Town"

1. Let's see the crude manger

With hearts filled with joy.

Let's see the first throne

Of this new Baby Boy.

It's all there as God said:

The stable, the hay.

Let's see the crude manger;

Let's go there today.

REFRAIN:

Let's go to worship our Bethlehem King;

Our gifts and our prayers and our praises we bring.

Let's look for the Baby God's love has sent down;

Let's go now and hurry to Bethlehem town.

2. Let's hear the glad sound

Come from Bethlehem's sky.

Let's hear angels sing

From the heavens on high.

It's a song to behold;

That the angels relay,

Let's hear the glad sound

Come from Bethleh'm today. REFRAIN

3. Let's tell the Good News
Of a Savior being born.
Let's send out the word
Of that first Christmas morn.
It's a story to share;
Tidings we can't delay.
So let's tell the Good News,
And let's tell it today. REFRAIN

Narrator 1: Everyone loves to hold baby animals. They are so cute and appear to be so innocent and helpless. Of all the baby animals, the lamb is one of the cuddliest. The soft, curly wool and high, squeaky bleats certainly can capture our hearts. Our worship service today is all about lambs, and one Lamb in particular: The Special Christmas Lamb.

Narrator 2: What would the Christmas story be like without the sheep and the shepherds? We love to sing Christmas carols that tell the story of the angels sharing the good news of Jesus' birth with the shepherds who were watching their sheep on the hills just outside of Bethlehem. Every Christmas we follow those same shepherds as they travel to the stable to see the newborn King of kings.

Did you know that besides the Christmas account, lambs and sheep are mentioned over 400 times in the Bible? We read about flocks of sheep as early as Genesis 4 and they are last mentioned at the end of Revelation. Sheep and lambs played a very important part in the Bible messages for God's people.

Lower Grades: Bible people liked sheep because they were useful. They gave their wool for clothes, their milk for refreshment, and their meat for food. Their horns were even used for bottles.

Narrator 1: Many well-known Bible people spent long days and nights caring for sheep. You might remember some of these people.

Recitation: Genesis 12:16 and 13:2 says: *"Abram acquired sheep and cattle. . . [He] had become very wealthy in livestock."*

Recitation: Genesis 29:9 says *"Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess."*

Recitation: Genesis 30:31 says: *"Jacob replied, 'But if you will do this one thing for me, I will go on tending your flocks and watching over them.'"*

Recitation: Exodus 3:1 says: *"Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law."*

Narrator 1: Large flocks of sheep were signs of great blessings. Nabal had three thousand sheep and Job had fourteen thousand.

Lower Grades: Shepherds loved their sheep. They fed them, protected them, and even played music for them. They also gave each sheep its own name. The sheep always knew their shepherd's voice. Another famous shepherd boy was David. We know he loved his sheep as we can see in his wonderful twenty-third psalm. Perhaps David spent many lonely nights watching his sheep, just like the lonely shepherd boy in this song.

Children's Song: *"The Lonely Shepherd Boy"*

There was a lonely shepherd boy who set out late one night,
To search the black Judean hills with all his shepherd's might.
A lamb had left the fold that day, 'twas but a little one.
It wandered off among the rocks, 'til it was lost and gone.
Lonely shepherd boy, when will you find your lamb?

His footsteps brought him to a town a-nestled down below,
Where one, small, flick'ring candle light was giving off its glow.
He rushed down to the cattle shed as tears streamed down his cheek,
And stretched above the window sill to take a little peek.

Sad, sad shepherd boy, where will you find your lamb?

New hope began to fill his eyes; they opened wide with joy,
For snuggled there in manger bed there lay a little Boy.
But little did he know quite then that he had found the one
Who was to be the Lamb of God, his Savior, God's own Son.

Hopeful shepherd boy, when did you find your Lamb?

Now if you ever find yourself as did that shepherd boy,
A-wandering through the lonely night in search of peace and joy,
Just look into that manger bed where lies the great I Am,
And all your wanderings will end, for you'll have found your Lamb!

Dearest shepherd boy, then you'll have found your Lamb!

(Lambs Were Sacrificed is deleted on sample pdf)

Mary's Special Lamb

Narrator 1: But this is a Christmas story, and we want to tell about the Special Christmas Lamb. We know that there were probably some sheep in the stable where Jesus was born because Jesus was laid in a manger or animal feedbox. We also know there were shepherds on the hillside keeping watch over their sheep when the angels told them about Jesus' birth. No doubt we all have some sheep standing beside the manger in our home creches, and most paintings and Christmas cards we see of the Christmas stable show sheep and lambs looking on.

Narrator 2: Many years ago someone wrote a wonderful little poem that started like this: "Mary had a little lamb, its fleece was white as snow." Of course that lamb only wanted to go to school one day, but we can also say that Mary had a little Lamb. Our Mary lived in Nazareth, and her Lamb was about to become the Special Christmas Lamb.

Recitation: (Lower or all grades) *Mary Had a Little Lamb* @sermons4kids www.sermonsforkids.com

Mary had a little Lamb,
He was born on Christmas day.
She laid him in a manger bed
To sleep upon the hay.

Angels filled the night-time sky
And they began to sing.
Shepherds heard them all proclaim
The birthday of a King.

Wise men saw a blazing star
Up in the sky that night.
They followed it until they found
The King of love and light.

Mary had a little Lamb,
But He wasn't hers, you know,
He was the very Son of God,
The One who loves us so.

The Father of this little Lamb
Loved the world so much
That He sent his only Son to earth
So we could feel His touch.

He came to give us joy and peace
And take away our sin.
So when He knocks on your heart's door,
Be sure to let Him in.

Why do I love this precious Lamb?
What can the reason be?
The answer is quite plain to see,
It's because He first loved me!

Song (Congregation): *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

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!" Refrain

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 with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel. Refrain
Hail the heav'nly 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. Refrain

Narrator 1: Jesus was indeed the Christmas Lamb, born in a manger on Christmas day. And this is how it all came about: (Recited by narrator or children.)

"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

“So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’

“Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.’

“When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’

“So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told”(Luke 2:1-20).

Song (Congregation): Silent Night

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.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

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.

Narrator 2: Even though the Bible never tells us that there were animals in the stable where Jesus was born, we do know that it was a manger or animal’s food box in which he was placed. Animals are mentioned several times during the life of Jesus. This poem mentions some of them and what they did for Jesus.

(A section of Mary’s Special Lamb is deleted here on sample pdf)

Children’s Song: “Children’s Song of the Nativity”

How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far.
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?
Can we see the little Child, is he within?

If we lift the wooden latch, may we go in?
May we stroke the creatures there, ox and cow and sheep?
May we peep like them and see Jesus sleep?
If we touch His tiny hand, will He awake?
Will He know we've come so far just for His sake?

Great kings have precious gifts and we have naught,
Little smiles and little tears are all we've brought.
For all weary children, Mary must weep.
Here on His bed of straw sleep, children, sleep.

God in His mother's arms, babes in the byre*.
Sleep as they sleep who find their heart's desire.

* A byre is a cowshed.

The Victorious Lamb of God

Narrator 1: The Old Testament sacrifices served a very good purpose. They all pointed to the great day when a special Lamb would be the final sacrifice. That special Lamb would pay the price of our sins once and for all. His blood would cover everyone's sins.

Narrator 2: Jesus is known by many names. He is our Savior, the Son of God, and the King of kings. We know too that he is the Morning Star and the Alpha and Omega. One of the most descriptive names Jesus has is the one he was given at his baptism. When Jesus began his ministry, he visited John the Baptist. When John saw Jesus approaching he said:

All children: *"Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"* (John 1:29)

All children: Jesus is the Lamb of God because he was sacrificed on the cross for our sins.

Recitation: Not all the blood of beasts on Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace or wash away the stain.

But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb, takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name and richer blood than they.

Narrator 1: The Special Christmas Lamb who was laid in a Bethlehem manger became the Lamb who was sacrificed on a cross for our sins. Jesus willingly died for us because he loves us so much. Truly, Jesus is the Special Christmas Lamb.

Narrator 2: The Apostle John loved to write about Jesus. When John wrote the book of Revelation, he called Jesus the Lamb of God thirty-one times. And when he spoke of Jesus as the Lamb, it was not as a dead sacrificed lamb. It was as the risen, victorious Lamb, who now sits on his throne in heaven.

Recitation: *"The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him"* (Revelation 22:3).

Recitation: *"The Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water"* (Revelation 7:17).

Congregation: *Come, Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs* (Sing to the melody of *Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men.*)

Come, let us join our cheerful songs
With angels round the throne.
Ten thousand thousand are their tongues,
But all their joys are one.

“Worthy the Lamb that died,” they cry,
“To be exalted thus!”
“Worthy the Lamb,” our hearts reply,
“For He was slain for us!”

Jesus is worthy to receive
Honor and power divine;
And blessings more than we can give,
Be, Lord, forever Thine.

The whole creation join in one,
To bless the sacred Name
Of Him Who sits upon the throne,
And to adore the Lamb.

Offering

Lord’s Prayer and Prayers

All Children Recitation: My Jesus is the Christmas Lamb
Who lived and died for me.
He came to earth a precious gift
To set his people free.

This Lamb was taken to a cross
And died on Calvary.
He gave the final sacrifice
And rose in victory!

What better gift could I have found;
This joyous Christmastime.
I’ll shout it from the mountain tops:
“The Christmas Lamb is mine!”

Recessional: *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

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.

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.

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.