

LUKE 2

The Christmas Story in Song

**Using the text of the
Evangelical Heritage Version (EHV)**

Aaron Michael Jensen

The purpose of this musical arrangement of Luke 2 (EHV) is to assist children in the transition from another translation to the Evangelical Heritage Version when it comes to the children's Christmas service. Music is a wonderful aid to memory, and by singing Luke 2 instead of merely reciting it, children will be able to more easily become accustomed to a different wording for a text they already know so well. Parents, teachers, and children may also find the introduction of a sung Christmas story to be a welcome new tradition in their congregation.

This piece presents two options for performance to better enable it to fit within different service plans. Because of the song's length, the preferred option would be to sing it in three separate parts as indicated within the music. However, the option is also there to sing the song continuously from beginning to end if that is what works better within a given service. All of the music is written with the ranges and abilities of grade school children in mind.

This composition originated as a way to help the children of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Adrian, MI learn and share anew the good news of our Savior's birth, and it is our hope that this composition serves to that end here and elsewhere.

Luke 2

Evangelical Heritage Version

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Part 1 (Verses 1-7)

$\text{♩} = 96$

In those days a de-cree went out from

8

Cae-sar Au - gus-tus that all the world should be re - gis - tered. This was the

14

first cen - sus tak-en while Qui-ri-ni-us was gov-ern - ing Syr-i-a. And ev'-ry-one went to

19

re - gis - ter, each to his own town. And Jos - eph

25

al-so went up from Gal-i-lee, out of the town of Naz-a-reth, in-to Jud-

31

- e - a, to the town of Dav - id, which is called Beth - le-

37

- hem, be - cause he was from the house and fam-i-ly line of Dav-id. He

43

went to be re-gis-tered with Mar - y, his wife, who was pledged to him in mar-riage

47

and was ex-pect-ing a child. And so it was that while they were there, the

52

time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her first-born son, wrapped

56

him in swad-dling cloths, and laid him in a man-ger, be - cause there was no room for

59

them in the inn.

63 Part 2 (Verses 8-14)

There were in the same count-ry

shep - herds stay - ing out in the fields, keep - ing watch ov - er their flock at

night. An an - gel of the Lord ap - peared to them, and the glo - ry of the Lord

shone a-round them, and they were ter - ri - fied! But the an - gel said to them,

87

“Do not be a-fraid. For be-hold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all

91

peo-ple: To - day in the town of Dav-id, a Sav-ior was born for you.

96

He is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: You will find a ba-by

100

wrapped in swad-dling cloths and ly-ing in a man-ger.’’ Sud-den-ly, there was

103

with the an-gel a mul-ti-tude from the heav-en-ly ar-my, prais-ing God and say - ing,

108

"Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace, good

114

will toward man-kind."

120

Transition between parts for if all three parts sung as one continuous piece

125 Part 3 (Verses 15-20)

When the an-gels went a-

- way from them in - to heav-en, the shep - herds said to one a - noth-

- er, "Now let's go to Beth-le - hem and see this thing that has hap-pened, which the

Lord has made known to us." So they hurried off

149

and found Mar - y and Jos - eph, and the bab - y,

155

who was ly-ing in the man - ger. When

162

they had seen him, they told oth-ers the mes-sage they had been told a-bout this child. And

168

all who heard it were a-mazed by what the shep-herds said to them. But

173

Mar - y treas - ured up all these things, pon - der - ing them in her heart. And the

177

shep - herds re - turned, glor - i - fy - ing and prais - ing God for all the things that

180

they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

185

