

1-1-2003

Thy Kingdom Come: A Christmas Liturgy on the Coming King

Lee Magness
jlmagness@milligan.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/leaven>



Part of the [Biblical Studies Commons](#), [Christianity Commons](#), and the [Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Magness, Lee (2003) "Thy Kingdom Come: A Christmas Liturgy on the Coming King," *Leaven*: Vol. 11: Iss. 3, Article 11.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.pepperdine.edu/leaven/vol11/iss3/11>

This Liturgical Readings is brought to you for free and open access by the Religion at Pepperdine Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Leaven by an authorized editor of Pepperdine Digital Commons. For more information, please contact bailey.berry@pepperdine.edu.

Thy Kingdom Come: A Christmas Liturgy on the Coming King

LEE MAGNESS

This is a choral reading for a narrator (N), four male voices (1M, 2M, 3M, 4M) and four female voices (1F, 2F, 3F, 4F). Spots marked F are for all women; spots marked M are for all men.

See page 164 for the order for this liturgy including suggested hymns.

OPENING SENTENCE (PS 24:7-10)

Lift up your heads, O ye gates;
even lift them up, ye everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

STANZA 1: YOURS IS THE KINGDOM, O LORD

N	Yours is the kingdom, O Lord.
All	<i>Yours is always the kingdom, O Lord.</i>
N	Therefore David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly; and said:
F	"Blessed art thou, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, for ever and ever.
1M	Yours, O LORD, is the greatness,
1,2M	and the power,
1,2,3M	and the glory,
1,2,3,4M	and the victory,
M	and the majesty;
F	for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours;
All	<i>yours is the kingdom, O LORD,</i>
M	and you are exalted as head above all.
F	And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name. (1 Chron 29:10-13)
All	<i>Yours is the kingdom, O Lord.</i>

N Yours is the kingdom, O Lord.
 All *Yours is an everlasting kingdom, O Lord.*

N King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations,
 and languages, that dwell in all the earth:
 All *Peace be multiplied to you!*
 M It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders
 that the Most High God has wrought toward me.
 F How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders!
 All *His kingdom is an **everlasting** kingdom. (Dan 4:1-3)*

N Yours is the kingdom, O Lord.
 All ***Yours** is the kingdom, O Lord.*

N Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called
 to him from the mountain, saying,
 M You have seen what I did to the Egyptians,
 F and how I bore you on eagles' wings
 and brought you to myself.
 M Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant,
 F you shall be my treasured possession
 out of all the peoples.
 All *Indeed, the whole earth is mine,*
 1,2M but you...
 3,4M ...shall be...
 M ...for me...
 F ...a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. (Exod 19:1-6a)
 All ***Yours** is the kingdom, O Lord.*

STANZA 2: UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN

N For unto us a child is born
 1M A king?
 1F No, a child!
 All *For unto us a child is born*
 N unto us a son is given
 2F A son?
 2M No, a king!
 All *unto us a son is given*

N and the government shall be upon his shoulders
 3F His swaddled shoulders,
 3M His stooped shoulders,
 4M His lumber-laden shoulders,
 4F His cross-beamed shoulders
 All *and the kingdom-authority rests upon his shoulders*

N and his name shall be called
 F Wonderful Counselor,
 M Mighty God,
 F Everlasting Father,
 M Prince of Peace
 1M A prince?
 1F Yes, one that would be king.
 2F A prince of peace?
 2M Yes, a prince who gives peace, though given none.
 All *and his name shall be called prince of peace.*

N Of the increase of his government and peace
 there shall be no end upon the throne of David
 M Because he was of the house and lineage of David.
 N and upon his kingdom.
 F The kingdom of God is at hand!
 M The king is a child!
 F The kingdom in a child!
 All *Unto us a child is born! (Isa 9:6-7)*

STANZA 3: A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM

N And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse
 3M A rod?
 3F Yes, kingdom-authority!
 4F Out of the stem of Jesse?
 4M Yes, out of Jesse's line, David's line, the kingly line!
 N and a branch shall grow out of his roots
 1F A branch?
 1M Yes, a royal branch out of his royal roots.
 M and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.
 F And he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove and resting upon him
 M The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.
 F *The spirit of the Lord is upon me*

3M But with righteousness shall he judge the poor
 3F *because he hath anointed me to preach the good news to the poor*
 4M and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth
 4F *he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted*
 1M and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth
 1F *to preach deliverance to the captives*
 2M and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.
 2F *to set at liberty them that are bruised*

N The wolf shall dwell with the Lamb,
 F and the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

M and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together,
 F and the cow and the bear shall feed,
 M and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
 1F Wolf and lamb? Leopard and kid? Cow and bear? Lion and ox?
 1M Yes, the mighty and the meek!

 2M Dwelling together, lying together, eating together?
 2F Yes, eating straw together!

 N And she brought forth her firstborn son,
 and wrapped him in swaddling clothes,
 All *and laid him in a manger!*
 F 'Midst outsiders and inn-keepers,
 M Romans and Zealots,
 F shepherds and magi
 M meeting together, eating together,
 All *and she laid him in a manger.*

 N And a little child shall lead them.
 3F Lead them?
 3M Yes, lead!
 4M Lead them who?
 4F Both lion and lamb!
 1M Lead them how?
 1F Like a king, a shepherd-king.
 2F Lead them where?
 2M Into the kingdom, the kingdom-fold
 All *And a little child shall lead them. (Isa 11:1-7)*

STANZA 4: CARPENTER, COMMONER, KING

N In the days of Herod, king of Judah
 3M There was already a king?
 3F Yes, humans will have their kings.
 4F And there was already a kingdom?
 4M Yes, a little kingdom with a little king.
 F The kingdom comes in the midst of kingdoms,
 M in the context of kingdoms,
 All *in conflict with kingdoms. (Luke 1:5)*

 N And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God
 F to a virgin espoused to a man
 M espoused to a man whose name was Joseph,
 All *of the house of David.*
 1F He was born to a king?
 1M No, a carpenter
 2M To a queen?

2F No, a commoner
 N to a virgin espoused to a man
 All *of the house of David. (Luke 1:26-27)*

N And the angel said unto her,
 M Fear not, Mary, thou shalt conceive in thy womb
 F and bring forth a son,
 All *and shalt call his name Jesus.*
 F and the Lord God shall give to him the throne of his father David,
 M and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever and ever,
 All *and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*

3M So the commoner conceived a king?
 3F No ... well, yes.
 4F But he had a throne?
 4M Later ... for now he would hold court
 F in mangers and on mountains,
 M in boats and bedrooms,
 F at wells and weddings,
 M at crossroads and on a cross.
 2M A cross? ... He died?
 2F Yes.
 N And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever
 All *and of his kingdom there shall be no end. (Luke 1:30-33)*

STANZA 5: THE KINGDOM IN A BARN

N And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree
 M from Caesar Augustus
 N that all the world should be taxed.
 3M There was already another king?
 3F Oh yes, humans will have their kings.
 4F And there was already another kingdom?
 4M Yes, a little kingdom with a little king.
 All *The kingdom comes in the midst of kingdoms.*

N And Joseph also went up from Galilee into Judea unto the city of David
 F the king!
 N which is called Bethlehem
 M the city of the king!
 N because he was of the house and lineage of David
 All *the line of the king!*
 N to be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife,
 1M being great with child
 taxed ... the power of a king.

N And she brought forth her firstborn son

1,2F A poor prince he made, this son of a king.
 N and wrapped him in swaddling clothes
 1,2M Homespun at best, rags at worst.
 N and laid him in a manger
 3,4F Hay, no haloes, straw, no satin, wood, rough wood.
 N because there was no room for them in the inn.
 M Blocks from the inn, miles from the palace.

N The king had come, the kingdom had come,
 F crowded out of the inn, crowded into the manger,
 All *The kingdom in a barn. (Luke 2:1-7)*

STANZA 6: THEY WORSHIPPED THE KING

N Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea,
 All *in the days of Herod the king,*
 F There was already a king.
 M There was already a kingdom.
 N behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem
 F From other kingdoms.
 M From other kingdoms with other kings.
 N saying where is he that is born
 All *King of the Jews*
 1M The question echoes through the ages:
 F Where is the king?
 M Where is the kingdom?

N When Herod the king had heard these things,
 he was troubled
 All *and all Jerusalem with him.*
 N And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together,
 he demanded of them where the Messiah should be born.
 And they said to him,
 1,2F In Bethlehem,
 F of Judea,
 N for thus it is written in the prophet,
 1,2M And thou, O Bethlehem,
 M in the land of Judah,
 1,2F art not the least among the princes of Judah,
 All *for out of you shall come a governor*
 that shall rule my people Israel.

N And when the wise men had come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary
 his mother, and when they had opened their treasures, they presented them unto him—
 1,2F gold,
 3,4F and frankincense,
 F and myrrh.

1,2M Treasures from a king.
3,4M Treasures fit for a king.
N and they fell down and worshipped him
F and worshipped him
M and worshipped him
All *They worshipped the king.* (Matt 2:1-11)

CLOSING SENTENCE (REV 11:15)

The kingdoms of this world
shall become the kingdoms of our Lord,
and of his Christ;
and he shall reign for ever and ever.

LEE MAGNESS

Dr. Magness teaches New Testament at Milligan College, Milligan College, Tennessee.



**THE COMING OF THE KINGDOM:
A CHRISTMAS LITANY ON THE COMING KING**
Order of Service

Opening Sentence (Psalm 24:7-10)

Lift up your heads, O ye gates;
even lift them up, ye everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in.
Who is this King of glory?
The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Stanza 1: Yours is the kingdom, O Lord (1 Chr 29:10-13, Dan 4:1-3, Exod 19:1-6)

Hymn: *O Worship the King*

Stanza 2: Unto us a child is born (Isa 9:6-7)

Hymn: *What Child Is This?*

Stanza 3: A little child shall lead them (Isa 11:1-7)

Hymn: *While Shepherds Watched*

Stanza 4: Carpenter, Commoner, King (Luke 1:5, 26-27, 30-33)

Hymn: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Stanza 5: The kingdom in a barn (Luke 2:1-7)

Hymn: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Stanza 6: They worshipped the king (Matt 2:1-11)

Hymn: *The First Noel*

Closing Sentence: (Rev 11:15)

The kingdoms of this world
shall become the kingdoms of our Lord,
and of his Christ;
and he shall reign for ever and ever.