

"All Is Well"

Kim Marxhausen

Processional: Come, O Long-Expected Jesus LW 22 LSB 338

*Banner: Well-Spring (flowing water)*

### **Well-Spring**

Narrator 1: Our world is not well. The people we honor with our vote dishonor the office. Stress levels are high as terrorists make it difficult to fly with even shoes or shampoo. Millions of people starve and try to avoid the rampant death associated with civil war. And even in our land of plenty children go without food and medical care while we are distracted by the antics of the famous. Our world is not well. Proverbs tells us to "Above all else guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life." The world we live in, as well as our own sin, makes this task a challenge we cannot meet alone.

Narrator 2: Our world is not well but wellness is what we desperately need. We cannot be our own wellspring but we have a source of wellness that results in eternal life. Jesus tells us that "whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." John 4: 14. The wellness that we seek is found in the baby lying in a manger. Join us in our search for a well world and a well soul. Walk with us to see the baby Savior.

Group 1: **ALL IS WELL, THE SAVIOR IS BORN!**

Group 2: **THEY FOUND HIM IN A MANGER IN BETHLEHEM!**

Well, the Savior is born  
Well, the Savior is born  
Well, the Savior is born

They found Him in a manger in Bethlehem

The angels came with news of love  
The baby was from God above  
Mary and Joseph had a son  
God's work on earth had just begun

Well, the Savior is born  
Well, the Savior is born  
Well, the Savior is born  
They found Him in a manger in Bethlehem

Narrative:

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendent of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus. Luke 1: 26-31

*Costumed Students: Angel visits Mary*

Narrative:

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit, She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name of Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. Matthew 1: 18-21

*Costumed Students: Joseph paces in his room, falls asleep and an angel visits. He awakes and goes to take Mary's hand.*

Song: Hark the Glad Sound LW 29 LSB 349 or  
Jesus, Our Good Friend TLCS 29

*Banner: Well-Born (Crown)*

## **Well-Born**

Narrator 1: Thus there were 14 generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ. Matthew 1:17  
Jesus' family tree can be traced back to the royal house of David. He was in every sense of the word "well-born." Yet, when the angels came to tell the parents the good news, the situation was not what our world would call well. Mary accepted that her pregnancy was of God and Joseph accepted that it was God's will to accept Mary as his wife. Jesus was well-born not because of his lineage, family situation or birth circumstances. He was well-born because He is God's Son.

Narrator 2: You are the sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:26-29. Because God has made us His children, through His promise, and the waters of our baptism, we are also well-born. We do not wear the crown of King David, but we will wear the crown of eternal life.

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Well, the Savior is born  
Well, the Savior is born  
Well, the Savior is born  
They found Him in a manger in Bethlehem

They traveled on a Donkey's back  
The comforts of the world they lack  
A mother tired with body worn  
A father cries as the baby's born

Well, the Savior is born  
Well, the Savior is born  
Well, the Savior is born  
They found Him in a manger in Bethlehem

Narrative:

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 a firstborn, a Son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

*Costumed Students: Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem find a stable and lay the baby in the manger.*

Song: Gentle Mary Laid Her Child LW 57 LSB 374 or  
Mary Had a Baby LOSP 90

*Banner: Well-Ordered (Mary and Joseph traveling)*

## Well-Ordered

Narrator 1: We did not travel that long road with pregnant Mary. We did not assist Joseph as he worked to comfort Mary during delivery. We do not know what they were thinking but scripture gives us no indication that their faith and trust ever faltered. We are tempted to say "What was God thinking?" How could He plan a more disorganized birth? Unmarried parents, a long donkey ride, no clean place to sleep, much less give birth and not so much as a mid-wife to assist in the delivery of the Savior of the world. Yet, all of this leads us to trust that God's plan is good. Out of disorganization He brought the plan of Salvation.

Narrator 2: We do not always understand God's plan for us or for our world. The faith He gives us keeps our trust in a God who is good, all the time. Only He can bring order out of the chaos of our world. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is My Word that goes out from My mouth: It will not return to Me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and will achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:8-13

Please join together to offer praise to God through His word found in Isaiah 12.

Narrator 1: In that day you will say

Congregation: **I will praise You O Lord.**

Narrator 1: Although You were angry with me,

Congregation: **Your anger has turned away and You have comforted me. Surely God is my Salvation;**

Narrator 1: I will trust and not be afraid.

Congregation: **The Lord, the Lord, is my Strength and my Song;**

Narrator 1: He has become my Salvation.

Congregation: **With joy you will draw water from the wells of Salvation.**

Narrator 1: In that day you will say:

Congregation: **Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known among the nations what He has done, and proclaim that His name is exalted, sing to the Lord, for He has done glorious things;**

Narrator 2: let this be known to all the world.

Congregation: **Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.**

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Group 2: **THEY FOUND HIM IN A MANGER IN BETHLEHEM!**

Well, the Savior is born  
Well, the Savior is born  
Well, the Savior is born  
They found Him in a manger in Bethlehem

The shepherds watched their flocks by night

They saw a burst of heavenly light  
The angels all began to sing  
Peace on Earth good will towards men

Well, the Savior is born  
Well, the Savior is born  
Well, the Savior is born  
They found Him in a manger in Bethlehem

Narrative:

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.  
Luke 2:8-16

*Costumed Students: Shepherds in the fields receive a visit from the angels. They travel to the manger.*

Song: Angels We Have Heard On High LW 55 LSB 368 or  
Christmas News LOSP 91, TLCS 34

*Banner: Well-Timed (star)*

## Well-Timed

Narrator 1: The children of Israel had been waiting for Jesus for many long years. During times of slavery, war and occupation they wondered when God would fulfill His promise. We look back on the time of Jesus' coming and marvel at the lack of communication technology. Just think what God could have done with the world wide web! The children of Israel waited until many gave up hope; yet Jesus was not late. Our time has much to offer and a great need for a Savior: yet Jesus' arrival was not premature. The birth of Jesus was well-timed to orchestrate our Salvation.

Narrator 2: You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6-8 While God's timing is perfect it points us to the wonder of the act of justification. Jesus, being God, took on human form, lived a perfect life, bore our sin on the cross and rose again. In this one act, Salvation was won for the children of God.

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Well, the Savior is born  
Well, the Savior is born  
Well, the Savior is born  
They found Him in a manger in Bethlehem

The wise men came from far and near  
They brought him gifts of good will and cheer  
They looked for him a thousand years  
He takes away all doubts and fears

Well, the Savior is born  
Well, the Savior is born  
Well, the Savior is born  
They found Him in a manger in Bethlehem

Narrative:

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." . . . When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. Matthew 2: 1-2 and 10-11

*Costumed Students: Wisemen follow a star to give gifts to the baby.*

Song: Silent Night LW 68 LSB 363 or  
Sleep Now, Baby LLV 13

*Banner: Well-Pleasing (Shepherd with lamb)*

## **Well-Pleasing**

Narrator 1: We assume the wise men were well-read. They knew of the prophecies of the King but did not have an understanding of their meaning. They were pleased to search for Jesus and were not disappointed to find a young child of humble birth. God was pleased with Jesus also, as He so declared at Jesus' baptism. "This is my Son, who I love; with Him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:17

Narrator 2: We cannot please God through our own works. Yet, even though we sin, even though we live in a sad, unwell world, through the blood of Jesus we are pleasing to God. May the God of peace, Who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen Hebrews 13: 20-21

Well, the Savior is born  
Well, the Savior is born  
Well, the Savior is born  
They found Him in a manger in Bethlehem

We travel in this world forlorn  
Until we are in Christ reborn  
Tell others of our Savior's Joy  
Through the love of a baby boy

Well, the Savior is born  
Well, the Savior is born  
Well, the Savior is born  
They found Him in a manger in Bethlehem

Narrative:

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: 17-20

*Costumed Students: Towns people and shepherds worship the baby then move off to tell other people about the Savior.*

*Banner: Well-Chosen (heart and world)*

## **Well-Chosen**

Narrator 1: Every detail of Jesus' birth was well-chosen by God the Father. It was and is all a part of His plan to make us and our world well again. When you see that our world is unwell, remember Christ's words "As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world." John 15:19

Narrator 2: We are His chosen and He calls us to be His servants; to worship Him, to serve Him, to tell others about Him and to care for one another. Through the love of God the Father, Son and Spirit, we have the wellness we seek.

Group 1: **ALL IS WELL, THE SAVIOR IS BORN!**

Group 2: **THEY FOUND HIM IN A MANGER IN BETHLEHEM!**

Recessional: Joy To The World LW 53 LSB 387

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## Program Notes:

The song "Well, the Savior is Born" is a spiritual and is public domain. The copyright for the arrangement and the extra verses written for this service is held by Paul and Kim Marxhausen

## Song Selections:

Two selections are offered for each song so the program can be adapted. The songs could be sung by the congregation, older students or younger students. The songs can be found in the following volumes.

LW Lutheran Worship, Concordia Publishing House  
LSB Lutheran Service Book, Concordia Publishing House  
LOSP Little Ones Sing Praise, Concordia Publishing House  
TLCS The Little Christian's Songbook, Concordia Publishing House  
LLV Lift Little Voices, Concordia Publishing House

## Banners:

Well-Spring (flowing water)  
Well-Born (Crown)  
Well-Ordered (Mary and Joseph traveling)  
Well-Timed (star)  
Well-Pleasing (Shepherd with lamb)  
Well-Chosen (heart and world)

Costumed Students: The costumed students move to places and act out the narrative while it is being read. Props such as Joseph's bed, donkey and manger are helpful.

Angels	Mary	Joseph	Innkeeper
Shepherds	Star	3 wise men	Town people

Parts:

Narrator 1 and 2: These parts are for adults but could be divided up among older children

Narrative: This should be a voice from off-stage

Group 1 and 2: These parts are for large children's groups. This provides more involvement for the youngest children.