

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley · 1739 · Tune: Mendelssohn (Felix Mendelssohn (adapted by W. H. Cummings))
Meter: 7.7.7.7 D with refrain

Verse 1

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born 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 new-born King!"

Verse 2

Christ, by highest heav'n adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of the Virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th' incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"

Verse 3

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen 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 new-born King!"

History

Charles Wesley first published the hymn in 1739 as 'Hymn for Christmas-Day'. George Whitefield revised the opening line. In 1855, William H. Cummings paired the text with a chorus from Felix Mendelssohn's 1840 'Festgesang'.

Scripture References (KJV)

Luke 2:14

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Malachi 4:2

But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings.

Public domain · biblesundays.com/hymns/hark-the-herald-angels-sing