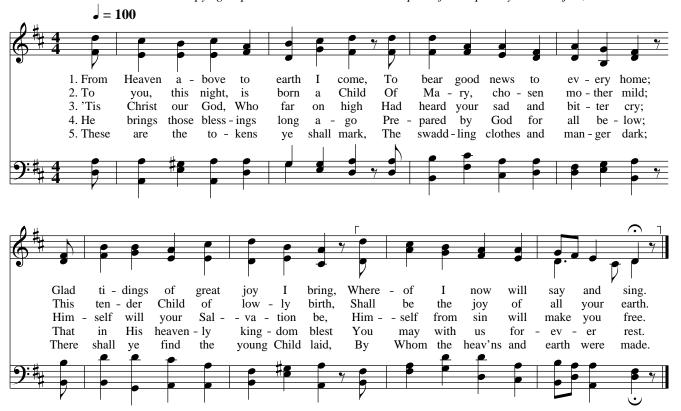
Words: Martin Luther, 1535. translated by Catherine Winkworth, 1855. Music: 'Vom Himmel Hoch' traditional German from Schumann's Geistliche Lieder, Leipzig, 1539. Setting: "Common Service Book" (ULCA), 1917.

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- Now let us all, with gladsome cheer, Follow the shepherds, and draw near To see this wondrous Gift of God, Who hath His own dear Son bestowed.
- 7. Give heed, my heart, lift up thine eyes! What is it in yon manger lies? Who is this Child, so young and fair? The blessèd Christ Child lieth there!
- 8. Welcome to earth, Thou noble Guest, Through Whom e'en wicked men are blest! Thou com'st to share our misery, What can we render, Lord, to Thee!
- Ah, Lord, Who hast created all, How hast Thou made Thee weak and small, To lie upon the coarse dry grass, The food of humble ox and ass.
- 10. Were earth a thousand times as fair, Beset with gold and jewels rare, She yet were far too poor to be A narrow cradle, Lord, for Thee.

- 11. For velvets soft and silken stuff
  Thou hast but hay and straw so rough,
  Whereon Thou King, so rich and great,
  As 'twere Thy heaven, art throned in state.
- 12. Thus hath it pleased Thee to make plain The truth to us, poor fools and vain, That this world's honor, wealth and might Are naught and worthless in Thy sight.
- 13. Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child, Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled, Here in my poor heart's inmost shrine, That I may evermore be Thine.
- 14. My heart for very joy doth leap, My lips no more can silence keep, I too must sing, with joyful tongue, That sweetest ancient cradle song.
- 15. Glory to God in highest Heaven, Who unto man His Son hath given, While angels sing, with pious mirth, A glad New Year to all the earth.

This hymn was written by Martin Luther to teach his 3 year old son about Christmas, and became a part of the Luther family Christmas tradition. One of the adults would dress up as an angel and sing the first 5 verses to the family. The rest of the family would sing verses 6 through 15.