

Hymn: Then Let Us Sing 23 (vv. 1, 2, 4, 6) – For Everyone Born

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Words: Shirley Erena Murray 1998, alt.; Music: Brian Mann, 2006

Conducted by Dr Jennaya Robison, the 64-member National Lutheran Choir gives a heartfelt and sensitive performance of Shirley Erena Murray and Brian Mann's Communion hymn in an arrangement by Tom Trenney. The performance was filmed at Normandale Lutheran Church in Minnesota.

[For Everyone Born - arr. Tom Trenney | National Lutheran Choir](#)

- 1 For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star overhead,

Refrain:

*and God will delight when we are creators of justice
and joy, _____ compassion and peace:
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice,
... justice and joy!*

- 2 For all who share life, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding the share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for all who share life, a system that's fair, R
- 4 For all who have breath, a place at the table,
a covenant shared, a welcoming space,
a rainbow of race and gender and colour
for all who have breath, the chalice of grace, R
- 6 For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free, R

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

In the rich dark of winter,

God makes an astounding promise:

"I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up." (*Jeremiah 33:15*)

In the wilderness, a voice cries out,
longing for the Refiner's fire, repair, and renewal, the promised birth (and rebirth) of hope.

Called to bear the weight and fruit of promise,
Mary sings ancient trust – the song of generations – that God comes to fill the hungry and lift the humble.

She sings that love and truth will meet, that justice and peace will kiss.

In the midst of uncertainty, Jesus assures his disciples: Just as the tree blooms, so the signs are clear that the kingdom of God is near.

In the deep of our own winter, we look for them: bud of hope, branch of peace, sprig of joy, blossom of love.

While around us the snares of fear and conflict lie in wait of infant hope, you, O Wisdom, O Endless Love, O Radiant Dawn, are there, keeping vigil with us, in this season of expectation.

We gather at this table, praying that crooked ways be made straight, that valley's peace be lifted up and mountain's might brought low so that all God's people might rejoice together, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one
that comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

We give thanks for the mystery and wonder revealed that first night, as humble people led by hope gathered in a quiet stable and were witness to your promise reborn.
We give thanks for the blessing and love Jesus shared with all whom he met, in food and story.

We remember that, on the night before he was handed over to die, Jesus broke bread with his friends, blessed it, gave thanks, and said,
"Take, eat. This is my body, which I give for you. When you share it, remember me."
We remember that he took the cup and, giving thanks, said,
"This cup is the new covenant in my blood. When you drink it, remember me."

Revealed in stable, cross, and empty tomb, we give thanks, O God, for your limitless love for all. With your people of all times and places, we await with hope the fulfillment of your vision for all creation.

Bless us, O God, and these your gifts. Encourage us to share your life and love, which make us, and the gifts we share, truly holy.

Transform us, God, and your world, and bless your children:
those who feel alone or afraid... those who whose souls and homes are broken by
violence... those who will go hungry, thirsty, and cold tonight... those who long only to
hear that they are loved....

God made known in Jesus Christ,
hear our prayer.

We pray these things, trusting in God's faithfulness revealed:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Sharing the Bread & Cup

(Carlisle: Choir is invited down first. Any who wish to remain seated for communion are served. You are invited to come forward for communion, standing in groups of 6 or so at the front. Hold your bread and cup as you are served, then you will be invited as a group to consume the elements together. When you are ready you may return to your seats and the next group will come forward.)

Prayer after Communion:

At this table, Christ is the host, welcoming all who hunger. At our tables, may Christ be our guest this day and always, that we might welcome hope, peace, joy, and love into our lives and become hosts to God's presence and people.

God of Love, guide us to the stables of our world, where the lonely and longing gather. Lead us to the mangers of our time, where hope and renewal are born again.
Make us heralds of your love and joy. Amen.