

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Original Language: \_\_\_\_\_



1. For whom was this hymn first written? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Who is singing the first five stanzas of the text? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What was Mary chosen for? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How is Jesus the joy of all the earth? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is man's "sad and bitter cry"? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What are the two natures in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. How do we also "go" to Jesus with the shepherds? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Sheet

Author: Martin Luther

Date: 1534

Original Language: German

- 1) This hymn was originally written to be sung by Luther's own children at their Christmas Eve celebration.
- 2) The first five stanzas are a paraphrase and expansion of the words sung by the angel who visited the shepherds watching their flocks on the night of Jesus' birth. See Luke 2:8-14
- 3) The angel Gabriel calls Mary the favored one. She was chosen to give birth to Jesus who would save His people from their sins. See Luke 1:26-38.
- 4) Through His birth, holy life, death and resurrection, Jesus brings great joy to all who believe. Jesus has rescued us from sin, death and the Devil.
- 5) We face many struggles in our world. On account of the fall into sin, our world is broken by sin and we endure much suffering and pain. Sin is at work within us, so that we also suffer internally on account of our sin. See Romans 7:7-20.
- 6) Stanza five speaks clearly of the two natures in Christ. Jesus is fully God and fully man. He is a helpless infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger; yet it is this little infant who is also the Creator of heaven and earth! See Colossians 2:9.
- 7) We believe in Jesus and approach Him in faith. In stanza six, Luther draws us into the Christmas story – encouraging us to approach the Christ-child with the same faith as the shepherds.

\*Questions focus primarily on stanzas one through six.

Luther loved music – deeming God's gift of song second only to His gift of theology. Here the Reformer sets the Christmas account to music and in this century old children's hymn clearly proclaims the reality of Jesus' incarnation. This text encourages us to consider the two natures in Christ, looking both to Jesus' humanity and divinity. In His humble birth, we see Jesus willingly give up the glories of His Divine nature in order to redeem us from the curse of sin. Jesus becomes a true human being so that He might be our substitute. He lives a perfect life to satisfy the demands of the law for us and then He offers up His own life on the cross to atone for all of our trespasses.

1 “From heav’n above to earth I come  
to bear good news to ev’ry home:  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,  
Whereof I now will say and sing:

2 “To you this night is born a child  
Of Mary chosen virgin mild;  
This little child of lowly birth  
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

3 “This is the Christ, our God Most High,  
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;  
He will Himself your Savior be  
From all your sins to set you free.

4 “He will on you the gifts bestow  
Prepared by God for all below,  
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,  
You may with us His glory share.

5 “These are the signs that you shall mark:  
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.  
There you will find the infant laid  
By whom the heav’ns and earth were made.”

6 How glad we’ll be to find it so!  
Then with the shepherds let us go  
To see what God for us has done  
In sending us His own dear Son.

7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,  
And see what in the manger lies.  
Who is this child, so young and fair?  
It is the Christ Child lying there.

8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,  
Through whom the sinful world is blest!  
You came to share my misery  
That You might share Your joy with me.

9 Ah, Lord, thou You created all,  
How weak You are, so poor and small,  
That You should choose to lay Your head  
Where lowly cattle lately fed!

10 Were earth a thousand times as fair  
And set with gold and jewels rare,  
It would be far too poor and small  
A cradle for the Lord of all.

11 Instead of soft and silken stuff  
You have but hay and straw so rough  
On which as King, so rich and great,  
To be enthroned in royal state.

12 And so it pleases You to see  
this simple truth revealed to me:  
That worldly honor, wealth, and might  
Are weak and worthless in Your sight.

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
A quiet chamber set apart  
For You to dwell within my heart.

14 My heart for very joy must leap;  
My lips no more can silence keep.  
I, too must sing with joyful tongue  
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,  
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!  
While angels sing with pious mirth  
A glad new year to all the earth.

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**From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (Stanzas 3 & 4)**

This is the Christ, our God Most High,  
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