

## A Child is born in Bethlehem

PUER NATUS IN BETHLEHEM (descant) 1012

Lucas Lossius, Psalmodia, hoc est, Cantica sacra vetris ecclesiae selecta, Nürnberg 1553

Harmony based on Dr. Layrie 1012

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'A Child is born in Bethlehem'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: 'A Child is born in Beth - le - hem; Al - - - lu - ia. Ex - ult for joy, Je - ru - sa - lem! Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - - - lu - ia!' The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. There are some decorative flourishes in the piano part, particularly in the second system.

A Child is born in Bethlehem;

*Alleluia*

Exult for joy Jerusalem

*Alleluia. Alleluia.*

2. Lo! He who reigns above the skies  
There, in a manger lowly lies
3. The ox and ass in neighb'ring stall  
See in the Christ the Lord of all.
4. And kingly pilgrims long foretold,  
From east bring incense, myrrh and gold,
5. And enter with their offerings  
To hail the new born king of kings
6. He comes a maiden mother's son,  
Yet earthly father has he none;
7. And from the serpent's poison free  
He owned our blood and pedigree
8. Our feeble flesh and his the same,  
Our sinless kinsman he became.
9. That we, from deadly thrall set free,  
Like him, and so like god should be.
10. Come then, and on this natal day,  
Rejoice before the Lord and pray
11. And to the Holy One in Three  
Give praise and thanks eternally.

*15th Century words Translated by Hamilton  
Montgomerie MacGill in Songs of the Christian  
Creed and Life, London 1876*