

# Nativity Play

by Henri David von Brugge

This script is created directly from Scripture (*Luke 1 and 2, Matthew 1 and 2*) using a slightly modified Douay Rheims translation to make it easier for children to pronounce.

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## Overview:

This is simply the Scriptural historical record covering the events surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ about 2000 years ago. It is meant for a number of families or a parish to gather together and remember the incarnation and birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Everyone can be involved – sometimes watching, others being an angel, shepherd, temple guard, and so on.

Traditionally, Nativity plays end with everyone joining in singing Christmas Carols, a time when singing talent makes way for sheer enthusiasm and joy.

You can also incorporate appropriate Christmas Carols before, after and at each scene change.



## The Cast: (in order of appearance)

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Narrator

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Archangel Gabriel

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Blessed Virgin Mary

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Joseph (non speaking part)

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Elizabeth (Mary's cousin)

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Baby Jesus (non speaking part)

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Angels

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Shepherds

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Wise Men 1, 2 and 3

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Herod

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Scribe

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Scene Announcer

Also assorted participants as temple guards, extra shepherds and angels, Herod's court followers and people of Jerusalem – even as Manger animals if you want!

## The Annunciation

(Luke 1:27-38)

**Narrator:** The angel Gabriel was sent from God into a city of Galilee, called Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man named Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in and said to her:

**Gabriel:** Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you: blessed are you among women.

**Mary:** (*Wondering*) What manner of salutation is this?

**Gabriel:** Fear not, Mary, for you have found grace with God. Behold you shall conceive in your womb, and shall bring forth a son; and you shall call his name Jesus.

He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the most High; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of David his father; and he shall reign in the house of Jacob for ever. And of his kingdom there shall be no end.

**Mary:** How shall this be done, because I know not man?

**Gabriel:** The Holy Ghost shall come upon you, and the power of the most High shall overshadow you. Therefore also the Holy one who shall be born of you shall be called the Son of God. Behold your cousin Elizabeth, she also has conceived a son in her old age; and this is the sixth month with her that is called barren: Because no word shall be impossible with God.

**Mary:** Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to thy word.

**Narrator:** And the angel departed from her.

## The Angels appear to Joseph

(Matthew 1:19-24)

**Narrator:** Whereupon Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing publicly to expose her, was minded to put her away privately. But while he thought on these things, behold the angel of the Lord appeared to him in his sleep.

**Angel:** Joseph, son of David, fear not to take unto you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her, is of the Holy Ghost.

And she shall bring forth a son: and you shall call him JESUS. For he shall save his people from their sins.

**Narrator:** Now all this was done that it might be fulfilled which the Lord spoke by the prophet, saying:

**Angel:** Behold a virgin shall be with child, and bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, "God with us".

**Narrator:** And Joseph rising up from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took unto him his wife.



## The Visitation

(Luke 1:39 - 56)

**Narrator:** Mary, rising up in those days, went into the hill country with haste into a city of Juda. She entered into the house of Zachary, and saluted Elizabeth.

And it came to pass, that when Elizabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the infant leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost, and she cried out with a loud voice.

**Elizabeth:** Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

For behold as soon as the voice of your salutation sounded in my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy.

And blessed are you that have believed,

because those things shall be accomplished

that were spoken to you by the Lord.

**Mary:** My soul glorifies the Lord,  
my Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.

He looks on his servant in her lowliness,  
henceforth all ages will call me Blessed.

The Almighty works marvels for me.

Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him.

He puts forth His arm in strength  
and scatters the proud-hearted,

He casts the mighty from their thrones  
and raises the lowly.

He fills the starving with good things,  
sends the rich away empty.

He protects Israel, his servant,  
remembering his mercy,

the mercy promised to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his sons for ever.

**Narrator:** Mary abode with her about three months; and she returned to her own house.

## The Nativity

(Luke 2:1 - 14)

**Narrator:** And it came to pass, that in those days there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that the whole world should be enrolled. This enrolling was first made by Cyrinus, the governor of Syria.

And all went to be enrolled, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem: because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary his espoused wife, who was with child.

And it came to pass, that when they were there, her days were accomplished, that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, wrapped him up in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; for there was no room for them in the inn.

## The Shepherds

(Luke 2:15 - 20)



**Narrator:** There were in the same country shepherds watching, keeping the night watches over their flock. Behold an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the brightness of God shone round about them - they feared with a great fear.

**Angel:** Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, that shall be to all the people: For this day is born to you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, in the city of David. And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger.

**Narrator:** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God, and saying:

**Angels:** Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace to men of good will.

**Narrator:** And it came to pass, after the angels departed from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another:

**Shepherds:** Let us go over to Bethlehem, and let us see this word that is come to pass, which the Lord has showed to us.

**Narrator:** And they came with haste; and they found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. And seeing, they understood of the word that had been spoken to them concerning this child. All that heard, wondered, at those things told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these words, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God, for all the things they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

## The Wise Men

*(Matthew 2:1 - 12)*

**Narrator:** When Jesus therefore was born in Bethlehem of Judah, in the days of king Herod, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem.

**Wise Man 1:** Where is he that is born king of the Jews?

**Wise Man 2:** For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to adore him.

**Narrator:** And King Herod hearing this, was

troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

He assembled together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people

**Herod:** Where should Christ be born?

**Scribe:** In Bethlehem of Judah. For so it is written by the prophet: And you Bethlehem the land of Judah are not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of you shall come forth the captain that shall rule my people Israel.

**Narrator:** Then Herod, privately calling the wise men, learned diligently of them the time of the star which appeared to them.

**Herod:** Go into Bethlehem. Go and diligently inquire after the child, and when you have found him, bring me word again, that I also may come to adore him.

**Narrator:** Who having heard the king, the wise men went their way; and behold the star which they had seen in the east, went before them, until it came and stood over where the child was. And seeing the star they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And entering into the house, they found the child with Mary his mother, and falling down they adored him; and opened their treasures

**Wise Man 1:** We give Gold

**Wise Man 2:** Frankincense,

**Wise Man 3:** and Myrrh.

**Narrator:** The Wise men received an answer in sleep that they should not return to Herod, so they went back another way into their country.