
A CHILD IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM

Words

15th Century words Translated by
Hamilton Montgomerie M^{ac}Gill
in Songs of the Christian Creed and Life,
London 1876

Music arranged by
Johann Sebastian Bach

SATB

Cantate Domino
EDITION

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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: Johann Sebastian Bach
Cantata 65

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 basso continuo line. The vocal line is written in a treble clef, and the basso continuo line is written in a bass clef. The music is in a simple, homophonic style. The lyrics are: 'A Child is born in Beth- - le - hem; Al - le - lu - ia. Ex - ult for Joy, Je - ru - sa - lem. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia'. The lyrics are placed below the vocal line, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The basso continuo line provides a harmonic accompaniment to the vocal line.

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.

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Creed and Life, London 1876*