

The Warrior King Comes

IV. Luke 1:67-80 The Eve of Conflict

War songs ...

I. Sweet Songs of War

A. A Gentle Virgin

B. An Aged Priest

II. Of a Singular Figure

A. An Ominous Child

B. Our Glorious Savior

III. Battle Hymns of Victory

A. The Heavenly Host

B. Tidings of Comfort and Joy

... of the Prince of Peace.

Children, Listen ...

1. Why is the baby named "Jesus?"
2. How did Jesus have victory over sin, Satan and death?
3. Because of what Jesus did His people can sing with joy.
What is your favorite Christmas Carol?

Not Your Mother's Lullaby

It would not be surprising at all if Mary and Joseph sang baby Jesus to sleep much the way many of us do when infants are falling off to sleep. We don't have any record of that, but we do have three "songs" sung on the occasion of the first advent of Christ. It may be something of a stretch to call, Mary's poem, Zachariah's prophesy, the heavenly host's announcement songs but, for the sake of poetic license (something we employ quite a bit this time of year!) we will call them that. But these songs are not lullabies designed to soothe anyone into dreamland. In fact, they are meant to wake us up to the reality of the intensity of the moment and the engagement in earnest of the Warrior from Heaven in battle against our formidable foes of sin, Satan and death. The Prince of Peace had come indeed but He has come to conquer that we might have peace with God. The peace and joy of Christmas that we sing so much about in our carols harkens back to the conflict the Son of God initiated with all of His and our enemies. He has had the victory and in Him we are free from our oppressors!

*Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day
That the power of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.*

Liturgy of St. James 5th C.