

Las Posadas Navideñas



**Last Week of the Church Year
Twenty-fourth Week after Pentecost**

21 November 2019

Chapel of St. Timothy & St. Titus | Concordia Seminary

**A Christ-Centered Adaptation
of a Beloved Mexican
Christmas Tradition**

What Is *Las Posadas*?

Las Posadas are well known throughout Mexico and the Southwest United States. *Las Posadas* literally means lodging or inn. Traditionally *Las Posadas* was practiced as a *novena* (series of nine) and was held each day between December 16 and 24. *Las Posadas* is a celebration full of joy and emotion.

Las Posadas was begun in 1587 by the Roman Catholic friar and missionary Diego de Soria in a small village in Mexico. His original purpose in establishing this tradition was to teach the indigenous Aztecs about Christianity and the birth of Christ. During the traditional time of the celebration of Christmas the Aztecs carried out ritual celebrations honoring their god of war, Huitzilopochtli. Soria used these indigenous celebrations as an opportunity to introduce the Christian Christmas story via the celebration of *Las Posadas*.

At first this series of masses was held only in the morning. Later it was prolonged to include the praying of the Rosary in the afternoon. Eventually, in the 17th century, *Las Posadas* began to include a procession. It appears that this change came out of resistance from the people to celebrate in the atriums of the church, preferring instead the indigenous custom of celebrating in the homes of individuals.

As the celebration of *Las Posadas* became more commonly celebrated in homes rather than in the church, the celebration quickly became part of family tradition and other elements were added. As the processions visited homes throughout the community, it became customary to offer refreshments to the guests. Dances and parties took place, and candy and *piñatas* became staples of the festivities for the young. The tradition that continues to be passed down from generation to generation is a combination of religious elements along with a type of festival celebration that includes several typical elements as described throughout this resource. *Las Posadas* can be hosted by individual families, churches, neighborhoods, and entire towns.

Truly, *Las Posadas* is a traditional Hispanic celebration depicting Mary and Joseph's search for lodging in Bethlehem. It is most commonly celebrated in Mexico although it is practiced in other countries as well. While originally a Roman Catholic celebration, this tradition is now also widely practiced as a one day event among other denominations and in secular venues.

The word *posada* means "inn" or "place of lodging," literally a place where one can *posar* (rest). In this celebration figures representing Mary and Joseph take part in a procession that goes from door to door guided by the angel seeking *posada*, or lodging. The traditional song of *Las Posadas* is a series of responsive verses sung between a group of pilgrims asking for lodging and innkeepers turning them away. Finally, after several stops, the innkeepers realize who is asking for lodging and welcome them in with open arms. All those in the procession enter the "inn" and a celebration, often including refreshments and a *piñata*, follows.

Las Posadas, in addition to being a reenactment of Mary and Joseph looking for lodging in the inn, has a variety of applications and lessons for the Christian life. While the practice of this tradition has become very secularized, it remains a wonderful tool for use in the church. It is one way of preparing for Jesus our Savior's coming and is a reminder that this can be awaited with great joy. When the time for Jesus' birth drew near, Mary and Joseph were unable to find lodging. Likewise, the world into which Jesus entered did not recognize Him as the Messiah. Even today the world often does not recognize Jesus, who comes knocking, seeking a place in each of our hearts. *Las Posadas* provides an excellent opportunity to reinforce the Gospel message of Jesus, born as a baby, come to Earth as our Redeemer. *Las Posadas* also provides opportunity to explore the themes of welcoming the stranger and serving your neighbor in need.

In addition to serving as a celebration for the faithful Christian, *Las Posadas* can be an excellent tool for Christian outreach into the community. The pilgrimage and the accompanying party provide opportunities for churches and individuals to invite their community and neighbors in and share a time of celebration and joy. *Las Posadas* provides churches and individuals an amazing opportunity to connect with Hispanics in their communities in a culturally relevant, non-threatening way. Hosting *Las Posadas* provides an opportunity to teach the Gospel message of Jesus' birth as our Savior, connect with those in the community, and enjoy a time of celebration with family, friends, and neighbors.

“LAS POSADAS”

The assembly participates in all parts in bold.

INVOCACIÓN / Invocation

L: En el nombre del Padre y del Hijo + y del Espíritu Santo.

Amén.

L: Celebremos la venida de Jesús, nuestro Salvador, *con gozo, agradecimiento y gran expectativa.*

L: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

L: Let us celebrate the coming of Jesus, our Savior, *with joy, thanksgiving, and great anticipation.*

PRIMERA PROCESIÓN DE LOS PEREGRINOS

First procession for the pilgrims (On the way, we sing...)

Al pobre pesebre del Niño Jesús
Estrellas del cielo le dan suave luz;
¡Humilde la cuna que Él escogió
Y su cabecita allí descansó!

Durmiendo en la paja el Niño está,
Mas cuando despierta no se oye llorar.
Yo Te amo, Jesús, y Te quiero adorar:
Te pido que vengas mi sueño velar.

Pastores del campo, teniendo temor,
Cercados de luz y de gran resplandor,
Acuden aprisa buscando a Jesús,
Nacido en pesebre del mundo la luz.

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head,
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And take us to heaven, to live with Thee there.**

INTRODUCCIÓN, BREVE EXPLICACIÓN E INSTRUCCIONES

Introduction, brief explanation, and instructions

PRIMERA PETICIÓN DE POSADA / First request for lodging

L: Mira que estoy a la puerta y llamo. Si alguno oye mi voz y abre la puerta, entraré, y cenaré con él, y él conmigo (Apocalipsis 3:20).

(Afuera - los peregrinos)

En el nombre del cielo
Os pido posada
Pues no puede andar
Ya mi esposa amada.

(Adentro - el posadero)

Aquí no es mesón
sigan adelante,
Pues no puedo abrir,
no sea algún tunante.

L: Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me (Rev. 3:20).

(Outside – the pilgrims)

In the name of Heaven
I beg you for lodging,
For she cannot walk
My beloved wife.

(Inside – inn keeper)

This is not an inn
So keep going
I can't open the door
You might want to harm me.

(Todos)

Ya se va María
muy desconsolada
Porque en esta casa
no le dan posada.

(Todos)

Ya se va José
Con su esposa amada
Porque en esta casa
No le dan posada.

(All)

Mary is leaving
Very saddened
Because in this home
There is no lodging.

(All)

Joseph is leaving
With his beloved wife
Because in this home
There is no lodging.

SALUDO / *Greeting*

L: Hermanas y hermanos, esperamos la Navidad. Nos preparamos para recibir a Jesús que nacerá de nuevo en nuestros corazones. Estas posadas nos recuerdan que Jesús vino al mundo y no fue recibido por muchos. Recibamos a Jesús con fe en nuestras vidas practiquemos lo que él nos enseñó.

L: Sisters and brothers, we await Christmas. We prepare to receive Jesus who will be born again in our hearts. These homes remind us that Jesus came into the world but was rejected by many. By faith let us receive Jesus into our lives, and let us do everything that he taught us.

ORACIÓN / *Prayer*

L: Visita nuestra familia, oh Dios. Danos amor, regocijo y Tu paz. Purifica nuestros pensamientos, palabras y acciones, con el fin de que cuando Jesucristo venga como juez, halle un lugar preparado esperando Su venida. Amén.

L: Visit our familias, oh God. Give us love, joy and Your peace. Purify our thoughts, words and deeds, so that when Jesus comes again as Judge, He will find a place ready for His coming.

Amen.

SEGUNDA PROCESIÓN DE LOS PEREGRINOS

Second procession for the pilgrims (On the way, we sing...)

Vé, dilo en las montañas,
En todas partes y alrededor
Vé, dilo en las montañas:
que Cristo el Rey nació

**Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.**

El mundo ha esperado
que Cristo el Rey de paz,
Viniera a esta tierra
trayéndole solaz. Ve, dilo...

**While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens,
There shone a holy Light. Go tell...**

Llegó como un niño
de noche en Belén;
Del cielo las estrellas
le alumbraron también. Ve, dilo...

**The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! Above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. Go tell...**

Y los que son de Cristo
debieran proclamar,
Que Cristo al mundo vino
los hombres a salvar. Ve, dilo...

**Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. Go tell...**

SEGUNDA PETICIÓN DE POSADA / Second request for lodging

(Afuera - los peregrinos)

Venimos rendidos
Desde Nazaret;
Yo soy carpintero
De nombre José.

(Adentro - el posadero)

No me importa el nombre
Déjenme dormir
Pues que ya les digo
Que no hemos de abrir.

(Todos)

Ya se va María
Muy desconsolada
Porque en esta casa
No le dan posada.

(Todos)

Ya se va José
Con su esposa amada
Porque en esta casa
No le dan posada.

(Outside – the pilgrims)

We come exhausted
From Nazareth
I am a Carpenter
My name is Joseph.

(Inside – inn keeper)

I don't care about your name
Just let me sleep
Because I've already told you
I will not open for you.

(All)

Mary is leaving
Very saddened
Because in this home
There is no lodging.

(All)

Joseph is leaving
With his beloved wife
Because in this home
There is no lodging.

SALUDO / Greeting

L: La luz verdadera que alumbra a toda la humanidad venía a este mundo. Él que era la luz ya estaba en el mundo, y el mundo fue creado por medio de él, pero el mundo no lo reconoció. Vino a lo que era suyo, pero los suyos no lo recibieron. Mas a cuantos lo recibieron, a los que creen en su nombre, les dio el derecho de ser hijos de Dios (Juan 1:9-12).

Posadero:

¿Quiénes son los hijos de Dios?

Peregrinos:

Porque todos los que son guiados por el Espíritu de Dios son hijos de Dios (Romanos 8:14).

Posadero:

¿Hacia dónde nos guía el Espíritu de Dios?

Peregrinos:

Ama al Señor tu Dios con todo tu corazón, con toda tu ser y con toda tu mente. El segundo se parece a éste: Ama a tu prójimo como a ti mismo” (Mateo 22:37, 39).

L: The true Light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world and it was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God (John 1:9-12).

Inn keeper:

Who are the children of God?

Pilgrims:

Those who are led by God's Spirit are God's children (Romans 8:14).

Inn keeper:

And where does God's Spirit lead us?

Pilgrims:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. The second important commandment is like it:

En cambio, el fruto del Espíritu es amor, alegría, paz, paciencia, amabilidad, bondad, fidelidad, humildad y dominio propio. No hay ley que condene estas cosas (Gálatas 5:22-23).

Posadero:

Y, ¿cómo sabremos si confiamos en el Señor y lo amamos de todo corazón?

Peregrinos:

Gracias a Cristo, también ustedes que oyeron el mensaje de la verdad, la buena noticia de su salvación, y abrazaron la fe, fueron sellados como propiedad de Dios con el Espíritu Santo que él había prometido (Efesios 1:13).

Love your neighbor as you love yourself... But the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control. There is no law against such things as these (Matthew 22:37, 39; Galatians 5:22-23).

Inn keeper:

And how do we know if we trust in the Lord and love Him with all our heart?

Pilgrims:

And you also became God's people when you heard the true message, the good news that brought you salvation. You believed in Christ, and God put His stamp of ownership on you by giving you the Holy Spirit He had promised (Ephesians 1:13).

ORACIÓN / Prayer

L: Dios, todopoderoso, ayúdanos a dejar de hacer las obras de las tinieblas y concédenos que podamos vivir por la gracia, el perdón, la paz y el amor de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, quien vino en la humildad del Niño para que en el día final al regresar en gloria y majestad para juzgar a los vivos y a los muertos, podamos ser resucitados a la vida eterna por los méritos de Cristo Jesús, quien vive y reina contigo y con el Espíritu Santo, ahora y para siempre. Amén.

L: Almighty God, help us to leave behind all evil deeds and enable us by Your grace to be equipped with the grace, forgiveness, peace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ, who came to us in the humility of a Child so that when He returns in Glory and majesty in the end times to Judge the living and the dead, we may be resurrected to life eternal through the merits of Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

TERCERA PROCESIÓN DE LOS PEREGRINOS *Third procession for the pilgrims (On the way, we sing...)*

Venid fieles todos, a Belén vayamos
De gozo triunfantes, henchidos de amor
Y al rey de los cielos humildes veremos
Venid, adoremos, a Cristo el Señor.
Venid, adoremos, a Cristo el Señor.

En pobre pesebre yace Él reclinado
Al hombre ofreciendo eternal Salvación
El santo Mesías, el verbo humando. Venid...

Cantad jubilosos, celestes criaturas
Resuenen los cielos con vuestra canción
¡Al Dios bondadoso gloria en las alturas! Venid...

Jesús, celebramos tu bendito nombre
Con himnos solemnes de grato loor;
Por siglos eternos adorate el hombre. Venid...

**Oh come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
Oh come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels.
Oh come let us adore Him, oh come let us adore Him
Oh come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, in the highest.
Oh come...**

**Yea, Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.
Oh come...**

TERCERA PETICIÓN DE POSADA / Third request for lodging

ORACIÓN / Prayer

L: Padre Celestial, al prepararnos para la venida de Tu Hijo, llena nuestros corazones y nuestras vidas con alabanza. Ayúdanos ser personas justas y bondadosas, llenas de misericordia, listas para ayudar a nuestro prójimo en sus necesidades, siempre recordando Tu misericordia hacia el mundo. Llena a cada familia con Tus dones de perdón, paciencia, amor mutuo y regocijo eterno. Te lo pedimos en el nombre de Jesucristo nuestro Señor. Amén.

(Afuera - los peregrinos)

Mi esposa es María,
y madre va a ser
del Divino Verbo
Que ya va a nacer.

(Adentro - el posadero)

¿Eres tú, José?
¿Tu esposa es María?
Entren peregrinos,
no los conocía.

(Afuera - los peregrinos)

Dios pague señores,
Vuestra caridad,
y que os colme el cielo
de felicidad.

(Todos)

Entren, santos peregrinos, peregrinos
reciban este rincón,
no de esta pobre morada,
sino de mi corazón. *(repetir)*

(Todos)

Ábranse las puertas,
rómpanse los velos,
que viene a posar
el Rey de los Cielos.
que viene a posar
el Rey de los Cielos. *(repetir)*

L: Heavenly Father, as we prepare for the coming of Your Son, fill our hearts and our lives with joy and praise. Make us just and loving persons, filled with forgiveness and mercy, ready to help others in their needs, always remembering Your mercy for the whole world. Fill each family with your gifts of forgiveness, patience, mutual love, and eternal praise. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

(Outside - the pilgrims)

My wife Mary
And mother to be
Of the Divine Word
Who is about to be born.

(Inside - inn keeper)

Is it you, Joseph?
Your wife, Mary?
Enter pilgrims
I didn't recognize you.

(Outside - the pilgrims)

God bless you all
With His blessing
And may He fill you
with heavenly joy.

(All)

Enter holy pilgrims, pilgrims
Receive this humble space
Not of this lowly inn
But rather of my heart. *(repeat)*

(All)

Let the doors fly open!
Let the veils be broken!
For here comes to rest
The King of the Heavens.
For here comes to rest
The King of the Heavens. *(repeat)*

LECTURA DEL EVANGELIO Lucas 2:1-7 / Gospel Reading Luke 2:1-7

L: Hermanas y hermanos, es Palabra de Dios,
Te alabamos, Señor.

L: This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

REUNIDOS Y JUNTOS, CELEBRAMOS / Together, we join to celebrate and sing...

Al mundo gozo proclamad,
Ya vino su Señor.
Llor sin par y sin cesar
Cantad al Salvador.
Cantad al Salvador.
Cantad, cantad al Salvador.

Al mundo viene a gobernar
Con tierna compasión.
Sosegará, perdón dará.
Y paz al corazón,
Y paz al corazón,
Y paz, Y paz al corazón

Al mundo libra de maldad,
Bondad nos da y amor.
Reciba al rey su santa grey
Al fiel y buen pastor
Al fiel y buen pastor
Al fiel, al fiel y buen pastor.

¡Al mundo gozo! Levantad
De júbilo canción.
La voz alzado, y gracias dad
A Dios, por su gran don.
A Dios por su gran don,
A Dios, A Dios por su gran don.

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground,
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.**

BENDICIÓN / Blessing

L: Que el Dios Todopoderoso, Padre, + Hijo y
Espíritu Santo, los bendiga ahora y siempre.
Amén.
Vayan en paz; sirvan al Señor.
Gracias a Dios.
Celebremos el nombre del Señor.
Amén.

L: Almighty God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit
bless you now and forever.
Amen.
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
Let us celebrate the Lord's name.
Amen.

SERVANTS OF THE WORD

Kent Burreson, Dean of the Chapel, Leader
Mark Kempff, Inn keeper
Dr. Leo Sánchez, Professor;
John Karolus, Caleb Worrall and Jacob Rhodes, seminarians,
Las Posadas Musicians and Pilgrims
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Chapel of St. Timothy & St. Titus
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