

Is

Christmas Eve  
Lessons and Carols  
December 24, 2021 at 7:00 PM

## SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

*The Service of Lessons & Carols has enjoyed great popularity since it was first introduced roughly a century ago. In England it has come to be regarded as THE service of Christmas Eve. While it is called "Lessons & Carols", not every hymn is, strictly speaking, a carol. This is due to the fact that the purpose of the service is to trace redemption's history from the Fall of our ancestors through the promises of the prophets, and finally to the birth of Christ. While the choice of hymns varies from place to place, the lessons have largely remained the same. Thus, the service is one of hearing the lesson, then hearing an accompanying hymn that reflects the truth of the lesson. Here tonight, at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, we will, with so many others, also trace salvation's history in lesson and song. May your heart be warmed as you contemplate tonight the mystery of the Incarnation: the coming of God to us in the flesh.*

### **PRELUDE**

(Stand) **OPENING HYMN: "Once in Royal David's City"**

LSB376

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y, Stood a  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is  
low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a  
ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y  
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the  
was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.

**P: BIDDING PRAYER**

I welcome you, on behalf of The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit. I'm Pastor Dan. We have come together as the family of God, in our Father's presence, to celebrate the great festival of Christmas. In this service we hear and receive the good news of the birth of Christ and we offer to God our thanksgiving in the joyful singing of carols.

As we gather together in the name of Christ, we pray for the world he came to save: for the Church, that it may be enabled in our generation to surrender anew to God's holy Wisdom, and bear the good news of God's love to an evil fallen world; for that world, which is already Christ's, that all its people may recognize their responsibility for its future, and may be called by the message of the Gospel to repent and allow for the breaking in of the Kingdom of God everywhere: for all in special need, the sick, the anxious, the lonely, the fearful and the mourning; that the peace and light of the Christ-child may bring hope and healing to all who sit in darkness.

We commend all for whom we pray, or who have asked for our prayers, to the unfailing mercy of our heavenly Father, and say together, as Christ himself taught us:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**P:** The almighty God bless + us with his grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of Christians above may the King of Kings bring us all.

**C: Amen.**

**Light the First Candle**

**LESSON 1 – Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19** God tells Adam and Eve that they have lost the life of Paradise, but that their promised offspring will crush the head of the serpent, Satan.

## HYMN: "Savior of the Nations, Come"

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a  
here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:  
That the Lord chose such a birth.  
God was there up - on His throne.

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**LESSON 2 – Genesis 22:17-18** God promises faithful Abraham that in his offspring all peoples of the earth will be blessed.

## HYMN: "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

LSB366

1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo - rious song of old,  
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,  
From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
When down in - to the cir - cling years Came Christ as was fore - told.  
"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all - gra - cious king."  
His word of peace shall to the earth God's an - cient prom - ise bring,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.  
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an - gels sing.

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## Light the Second Candle

**LESSON 3 – Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; 11:1-4a** The prophet Isaiah foretells of the coming Savior.

## HYMN: “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

LSB359



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath  
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have  
mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the  
kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.  
us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.

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**LESSON 4 – Micah 5:2, 4-5a** The Prophet Micah foretells that the Messiah will come from Bethlehem.

## HYMN: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

sts. 1, 3



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Light the Third Candle

**LESSON 5 – Luke 1:26-35, 38** The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

## HYMN: "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

LSB356



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,

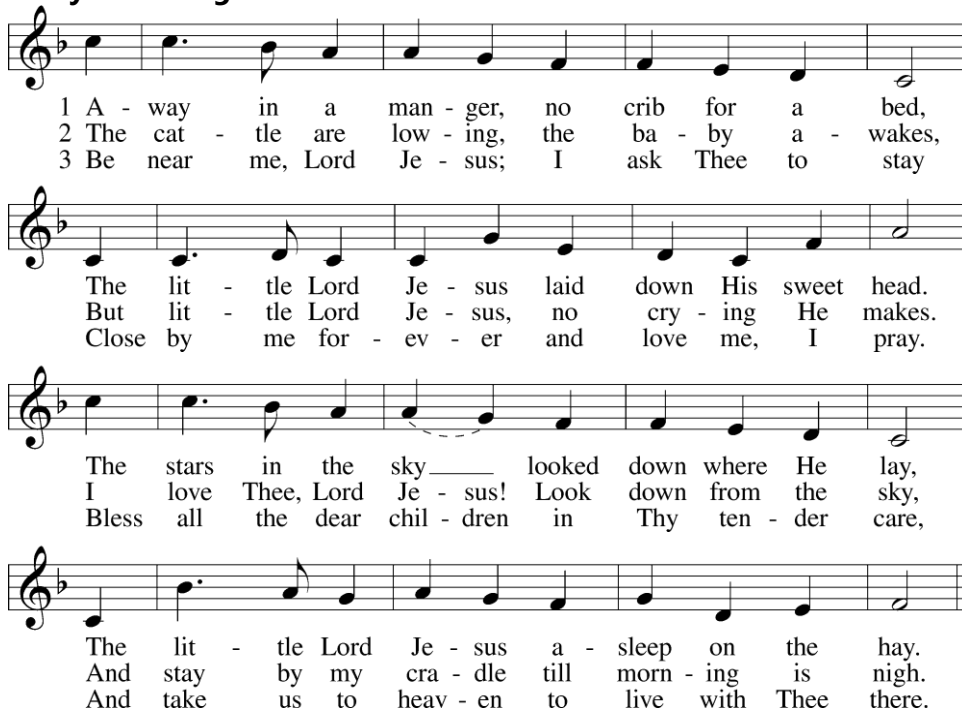


"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
 And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

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## LESSON 6 – Luke 2:1-7 St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

### 364 Away in a Manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay  
 The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.  
 But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.  
 Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.  
 The stars in the sky \_\_\_\_\_ looked down where He lay,  
 I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,  
 The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
 And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

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## LESSON 7 – Luke 2:8-18 The Shepherds receive the glorious news of the birth of the Savior, and go once to see this miraculous event.

## HYMNS: "The First Noel"

*The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.*

## Light the Fourth Candle

**LESSON 8 – Matthew 2:1-12** The three magi find Jesus the Messiah after seeking him from afar through tracking prophecy.

## HYMNS: We Three Kings - 370

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to  
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let  
shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the  
Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

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## Light the Christ Candle



**LESSON 9 – John 1:1-14** The Word, which created and holds together the very fabric of reality, becomes a human like you or I; to live, suffer, die, and rise for our sin.

# **HYMNS: Of the Father's Love Begotten - 384**



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -  
 Δ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly  
 gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing  
 He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that  
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -  
 have been, And that fu - ture years shall see  
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

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## **Pastor's Christmas Eve Salutation**

**OFFERING** is collected and presented to the altar.

## "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

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1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

## Service of the Sacrament

### Preface

LSB 194



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

## Proper Preface

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

LSB 195



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

## The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

LSB 197



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**G** A - men.

## Agnus Dei

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that

tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the

world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*Sit*

## Distribution Anthem

**"Before the Marvel of This Night"** by Carl Schalk (Mixed Choir)

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

### The Dismissal

LSB 199

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

**C** Amen.

*Stand*

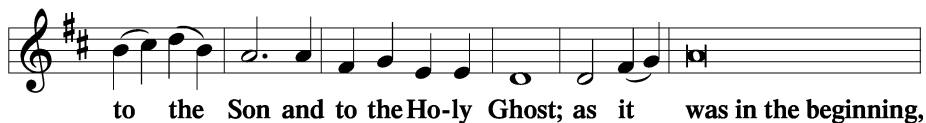
## Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

**C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-

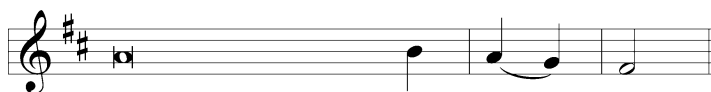
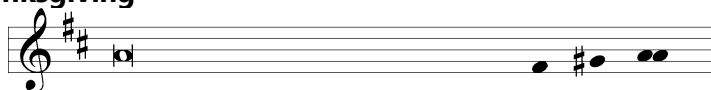
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,

which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



## Thanksgiving

LSB 200



## Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**G** A - men.

**[P]: PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE**

Almighty God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: grant that, as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold Him when He shall come again to be our judge; who is alive now and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*(Stand) CANDLELIGHTING (Candles are lit. Please tilt your candle toward the upright burning one.)*

**CLOSING HYMN: "Silent Night"**

LSB363



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - diant



vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,  
stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
beams from Thy ho-ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,



Sleep in heav-en-ly peace, Sleep in heav-en-ly peace.  
Christ, the Sav-ior, is born! Christ, the Sav-ior, is born!  
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

*(Please extinguish candles and return them to the box as you leave church)*

**BENEDICTION**

**[P]:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and † give you peace.

**C:** Amen.

### **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Christ is born! Go in peace!

**C:** Thanks be to God.