

**CHRISTMAS EVE
LESSONS AND CAROLS**

PRE-SERVICE HYMNS:

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

LSB 388

- Refrain* Go tell it on the mountain,
 Over the hills and ev’rywhere;
 Go tell it on the mountain
 That Jesus Christ is born!
- 1 While shepherds kept their watching
 O’er silent flocks by night,
 Behold, throughout the heavens
 There shone a holy light. *Refrain*
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled
 When lo, above the earth
 Rang out the angel chorus
 That hailed our Savior’s birth. *Refrain*
- 3 Down in a lonely manger
 The humble Christ was born;
 And God sent us salvation
 That blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Text: Public domain

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

LSB 377

- 1 On Christmas night all Christians sing
 To hear the news the angels bring,
 On Christmas night all Christians sing
 To hear the news the angels bring,
 News of great joy, news of great mirth,
 News of our merciful King’s birth.
- 2 Then why should men on earth be so sad,
 Since our Redeemer made us glad,
 Then why should men on earth be so sad,
 Since our Redeemer made us glad,
 When from our sin He set us free,
 All for to gain our liberty?

- 3 When sin departs before His grace,
Then life and health come in its place,
When sin departs before His grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn King.
- 4 All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night,
All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
“Glory to God and peace to men
Now and forevermore. Amen.”

Text: Public domain

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

LSB 366

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav’n’s all-gracious king.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats
O’er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov’ring wing,
And ever o’er its babel sounds
The blessèd angels sing.
- 3 All you, beneath your heavy load,
By care and guilt bent low,
Who toil along a dreary way
With painful steps and slow:
Look up, for golden is the hour,
Come swiftly on the wing,

The Prince was born to bring you peace;
Of Him the angels sing.

- 4 For lo, the days have come to pass
By prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years
Came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth
God's ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear
The song the angels sing.

Text: Public domain

THE PROCESSIONAL **“Once in Royal David's City”**

LSB 376

- Solo** 1 Once in royal David's city
 Stood a lowly cattle shed,
 Where a mother laid her baby
 In a manger for His bed:
 Mary was that mother mild,
 Jesus Christ her little child.
- Men** 2 He came down to earth from heaven,
 Who is God and Lord of all,
 And His shelter was a stable,
 And His cradle was a stall;
 With the poor and mean and lowly
 Lived on earth our Savior holy.
- Women** 3 For He is our childhood's pattern,
 Day by day like us He grew;
 He was little, weak, and helpless,
 Tears and smiles like us He knew;
 And He feels for all our sadness,
 And He shares in all our gladness.
- All** 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him,
 Through His own redeeming love;
 For that child so dear and gentle
 Is our Lord in heav'n above;
 And He leads His children on
 To the place where He is gone.

5 Not in that poor, lowly stable
With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned,
All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Public domain

THE INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

C Amen

BIDDING PRAYER

P Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas Eve our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the shepherds adore the child lying in His mother's arms.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the account of the loving purposes of God, our heavenly Father, from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and in company with the whole Church let us make this church dedicated to the Prince of Peace, glad with our carols of praise.

But first let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; within the United States, within the state of Minnesota, and within the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

And let us at this time remember in His name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the loving kindness of the Lord.

Let us also remember before our heavenly Father all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which none can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh; and let us pray that we may be counted among that communion of saints, receiving grace to offer unto God reasonable service, living in unity and fellowship with all His people and giving reverence to all that He hath made.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ Himself taught us:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be 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.

1st READING: Genesis 3:8-19

A And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (ESV)

CAROL

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

LSB 393

1 Infant holy,
 Infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall;
 Oxen lowing,
 Little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
 Swiftly winging,
 Angels singing,
 Bells are ringing,
 Tidings bringing:

Christ the child is Lord of all!

Christ the child is Lord of all!

- 2 Flocks were sleeping,
 Shepherds keeping
Vigil till the morning new
 Saw the glory,
 Heard the story,
Tidings of a Gospel true.
 Thus rejoicing,
 Free from sorrow,
 Praises voicing,
 Greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Public domain

2nd READING: Genesis 22:15-18

A And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice." (ESV)

CAROL

“Away in a Manger”

LSB 365

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
 The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
 The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
 The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 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 cradle till morning is nigh.
- 3 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.

Text: Public domain

3rd READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

A The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. (ESV)

CAROL

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

LSB 368

1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song? *Refrain*

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

4th READING: Micah 5:2-5

A But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be

their peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men. (ESV)

CHOIR “The First Noel”

The first Noel, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

5th READING: Luke 1:26-38

A In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David.

CHOIR & CONGREGATION “The Quemapas Carol”

Cong. 1. He whom shepherds once came praising,
 Awed by heav’nly light ablazing,
 Cheered by angel news amazing:
 “King of glory, Christ is born!”

Choir The glorious angels came today,
 Aglow with light into the night of darkness deep,
 To shepherds who by moon’s bright ray
 Did in the field o’er sheep their silent vigil keep.
 “Joy, great joy and tidings glad we bring from heav’n resounding,
 For you, for you and all the world abounding.”

All

God's own Son is born a child, is born a child;
God the Fa-ther is rec - on-ciled, is rec - on-ciled!

Cong. 2. He whom sages, westward faring,
Myrrh and gold and incense bearing,
Humbly worshiped, off'rings sharing,
Judah's lion reigns this morn!

Choir "God's majesty has come to earth
And sent His only Son to you in humankind;
A chosen virgin gave Him birth.
In David's town the holy infant you will find,
Lying helpless in a manger, poor and bare and lowly,
To set you free from all your sorrow wholly."

All God's own Son is born a child, is born a child;
God the Father is reconciled, is reconciled!

Cong. 3. Sing with Mary, virgin mother;
Praise her Son, our newborn brother;
Angel ranks, lead one another,
Hailing Him in holy joy!

Choir Then sang the angels this refrain:
"To God on high alone give praise and glory,
And peace on earth again shall reign.
Let all on earth with gladness heed this story
And rejoice in His goodwill." The Savior came in meekness
For you, for you, to bear your flesh in weakness.

All God's own Son is born a child, is born a child;
God the Father is reconciled, is reconciled!

Cong. 4. To our king, God ever reigning,
Yet of Mary manhood gaining,
Heav'nly gifts for us obtaining,
Raise your hymns of homage high!

Choir The wond'ring shepherds said: "Behold!
Let us now go with all good speed to Bethlehem
To see this thing the Lord has told;
The sheep are safe; He will indeed take care of them."
There they found the wonder child, in lowly swaddling clothes lying,
Yet all the world with His free grace supplying.

All God's own Son is born a child, is born a child;
God the Father is reconciled, is reconciled!

6th READING: Luke 2:1-7

A In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (ESV)

CHOIR & CONGREGATION "A Night of Silence"

Choir 1. Cold are the people, winter of life,
we tremble in shadows this cold, endless night.
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping,
flowers that will echo the sunrise,
Fire of hope is our only warmth;
Weary, its flame will be dying soon.

Choir 2. Voice in the distance, call in the night,
on wind you enfold us, you speak of The Light,
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly,
rumors of a dawn so embracing,
Breathless love awaits darkened souls.
Soon we will know of the morning.

All 3. Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child.
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

All 4. Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace.
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Choir 5. Spirit among us shines like the star.
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar.
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely;
Rising in the warmth of your Son's love,
Star unknowing of night and day,
Spirit we wait for your loving Son.

7th READING: Luke 2:8-20

A And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." They went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (ESV)

CHOIR & CONGREGATION "I am so Glad Each Christmas Eve"

Choir 1. I am so glad each Christmas Eve,
The night of Jesus' birth!
Then like the sun the star shone forth,
And angels sang on earth.

Choir 2. The little child in Bethlehem,
He was a king indeed!
For He came down from heav'n above
To help a world in need.

Choir 3. He dwells again in heaven's realm,
The Son of God today;
And still He loves his little ones
And hears them when they pray.

All 4. I am so glad each Christmas Eve!
His praises then I sing;
He opens them for ev'ry child
The palace of the king.

SERMON

OFFERING Please place your offering in the plates in the center aisle as you leave.

HYMN "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light" LSB 378



1 Break forth, O beau - teous heav'n - ly light, And
2 O dear - est Child, whom I a - dore, Whose
3 All bless - ing, thanks, and praise to Thee, Lord



ush - er in the morn - ing. Ye shep - herds, shrink not
grace sur - pass - es mea - sure, My Broth - er, whom I
Je - sus Christ, be giv - en: Thou hast my Broth - er



with af - fright, The day of grace is dawn - ing. This
cher - ish more Than earth with all its trea - sure: Haste
deigned to be, Thou Lord of earth and heav - en. Help



Child, though weak in in - fan - cy, Our con - fi -
from Thy man - ger to de - part, O come and
me through - out this day of grace To praise Thy



dence and joy shall be, The pow'r of Sa - tan
dwell with - in my heart; With joy will I re -
love and seek Thy face; And when I stand be -



break - ing, Our peace with God now mak - ing.
ceive Thee, A cra - dle there will give Thee.
fore Thee For - ev - er to a - dore Thee.

Text: © 1973 Openbook Publishers. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003026
Tune: Public domain

PRAYER & BLESSING

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your Spirit.

P Let us pray. Oh God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we have joyfully welcomed Him as our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold Him, when He comes to be our judge; Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

C Amen

P May He who by His Incarnation gathered into one, things earthy and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

C Amen

CAROL

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

LSB 380

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the_angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!” *Refrain*

Refrain Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel! *Refrain*
- 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth. *Refrain*

Text: Public domain

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship w/Holy Communion
Tonight at 9:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship w/Holy Communion
Saturday, December 25 at 9:30 a.m.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
7700 Monroe St. NE, Spring Lake Park, MN
Office: 763-786-1706 LC-MS Pastor Strawn: 763-439-8658