

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols



**CHRIST + THE  
SAVIOR IS BORN**



**ST. PAUL**

LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

## Service of Lessons & Carols

*Our worship this evening is an adaption of the Lessons and Carols service traditionally held at King's College, Cambridge, England, on December 24<sup>th</sup> every year. Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve, 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's College after his experience as an army chaplain.*

Stand

### Bidding Prayer

Dear people of God, in this Christmas season, it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us—the Christ Child lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy child.

But first, let us pray for people all over the world who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ and who would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of this place and for all those in our own congregation.

And, because this would please our Lord, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, and the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, those who do not love him, and those who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another.

### Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

*Be seated*

**Hymn** (*Choir v. 1-2, Congregation v.3-4*)

**Once in Royal David's City**

CW 343

## **First Lesson**

*Genesis 3:8-15*

*The Seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head.*

<sup>8</sup>Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

<sup>10</sup>He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

<sup>11</sup>And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

<sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

<sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup>So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all livestock

and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly

and you will eat dust

all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>And I will put enmity

between you and the woman,

and between your offspring and hers;

he will crush your head,

and you will strike his heel."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn** (*Choir v. 1, 3, Congregation v. 2, 4, 5*) **Savior of the Nations, Come**

CW 301

## Second Lesson

Isaiah 11:1–9

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*

- <sup>1</sup>A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
- <sup>2</sup>The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of might,  
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—
- <sup>3</sup>and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.  
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
- <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he will judge the needy,  
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.  
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;  
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.
- <sup>5</sup>Righteousness will be his belt  
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.
- <sup>6</sup>The wolf will live with the lamb,  
the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;  
and a little child will lead them.
- <sup>7</sup>The cow will feed with the bear,  
their young will lie down together,  
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.
- <sup>8</sup>The infant will play near the cobra's den,  
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.
- <sup>9</sup>They will neither harm nor destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn

## Behold, a Branch Is Growing

CW 360

## Third Lesson

Micah 5:2–4

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.*

- <sup>2</sup>“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,

out of you will come for me

one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.”

<sup>3</sup>Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.

<sup>4</sup>He will stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
will reach to the ends of the earth.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Hymn**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

CW 333

*Be seated*

## **Fourth Lesson**

Luke 1:26–35, 38

*A Branch from the stump of Jesse will bear fruit.*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

<sup>29</sup>Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

<sup>34</sup>“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup>The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

<sup>38</sup>“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn

## Holy Is Your Name

CW 956 v. 1, 3, 5

## Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:1–7

*The angel Gabriel announces to Mary the birth of a son.*

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup>So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn

## What Child Is This

CW 344

## Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:8–12

*St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

<sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn

## Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

CW 345

### Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:13–20

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

<sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

<sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.  
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Hymn

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

CW 350

*Be seated*

## Offering

### Lighting of the Candles

*Ushers will come to your pew and light the candle of the person nearest the center aisle. Please then light the candle next to you until all the candles are lit in the row. When lighting your candle, remember to tip the unlit candle and leave the lit candle vertical. When all the candles are lit, the lights will be dimmed.*

## Prayer

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with such joy that comes from the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the  $\dagger$  Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

## Hymn

## Silent Night, Holy Night

CW 337

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### Acknowledgments

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from Christian Worship

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## Worship Notes

Presiding Minister: Justin Shrum

Service Team: Team Woehler; AV: C. Woehler

Accompanist: Dan Vogel

Featuring the Volunteer Grade School Kids Choir

Soloist: Olivia Jelinek

Instrumentalists: Brad Eggert, Elliot Feidt, Jasmine Toppe