

**Dec. 27, 2020 – Online Worship  
A Service of Lessons and Carols**

**About the Service**

*One of the great traditions of the Christmas season is the Service of Lessons and Carols, sung by church choirs large and small in every part of the English-speaking world. The model on which this event is based is the service that takes place annually on Christmas Eve at King's College, Cambridge, England. It has been a tradition at King's since 1918.*

*As the creator of Lessons and Carols pointed out in the first program, the pattern and strength of the service resides with the lessons themselves and not with the music.*

*“The main theme of the service is the development, through the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, of the loving purpose of God in sending his Son. The carols and hymns are simply here to guide us in our response to the word of God's promise.”*

# “Once in Royal David’s City”

LSB 376  
sts. 1–2, 4–5



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is  
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His  
5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a  
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and  
ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y  
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the  
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He  
heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



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.  
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.  
stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

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## Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C **the light no darkness can overcome.**

P Let Your light scatter the darkness

C **and illumine Your Church.**

## Collect

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O Lord, in the wondrous events of our Savior's birth, You have fulfilled the promise You made through the prophets and delivered to us Your own Son as our Savior and Lord. Help us to meet Christ in the manger of His Word and altar and there to worship Him with joy and thanksgiving. Grant us to carry forth into our lives the wonder of Christmas night and to keep in holy lives the song of the angels at His birth; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit we honor one Lord, one God, now and to the end of the ages.

C **Amen.**

## The First Article

P We have a marvelous Creator! We confess our faith together...

C **I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

## Confession and Absolution

P Adam and Eve were created perfect, but we all have fallen in Adam's fall. Let us confess our sin to our holy God, trusting His promise of a Savior.

Merciful Father,

C **We confess that we have sinned against You and against one another. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You desire. We do sincerely repent of our sins and ask Your mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord, to grant us forgiveness. Give us the will and desire to amend our sinful lives by the power of Your Holy Spirit, that we come to delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## First Reading

*Genesis 3:8–15*

P God announces in the Garden of Eden that the Seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head.

<sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup>He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup>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."

<sup>14</sup>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.

<sup>15</sup>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."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## “O Sing of Christ”

LSB 362  
sts. 1–2, 4



1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,  
2 What Ad-am lost, none could re - claim, And Par - a - dise was barred  
4 Lord Je - sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A - mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.  
Un - til the sec - ond Ad - am came To mend what sin had marred.  
As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man-i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace  
For when the time was full and right God sent His on - ly Son;  
Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.  
He came to us as life and light And our re - demp-tion won.  
That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

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## Second Reading

*Isaiah 9:2, 6–7*

L Isaiah prophesies the coming of the Prince of Peace.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**“See amid the Winter’s Snow”**

**LSB 373**



1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,  
2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,  
3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,  
4 Teach, O teach us, ho - ly Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,



See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.  
He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.  
Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!  
Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.



Hail, O ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”

*Tune and text: Public domain*

**Third Reading**

*Isaiah 40:1–3*

L Isaiah foretells the spiritual blessings that Christ will bring.

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD’s hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

LSB 359  
sts. 1–2, 4



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  
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



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  
woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the  
kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to  
know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.  
us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.  
courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

*Text and tune: Public domain*

## The Second Article

P Jesus is a gracious Redeemer! We confess our faith together...

C **[I believe] in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;**

**who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the  
dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

#### **Fourth Reading**

*Matthew 1:18–25*

P The angel Gabriel announces to Joseph that his wife will give birth to Emmanuel: God with us.

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

# “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come”

LSB 358

sts. 1–2, 8, 13–14



1 “From heav’n a - bove to earth I come To bear good  
2 “To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,  
8 Wel - come to earth, O no - ble Guest, Through whom the  
13 Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly Child, Pre - pare a  
14 My heart for ver - y joy must leap; My lips no



news to ev - ’ry home; Glad tid - ings of great  
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of  
sin - ful world is blest! You came to share my  
bed, soft, un - de - filed, A qui - et cham - ber  
more can si - lence keep. I, too, must sing with



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:  
low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.  
mis - er - y That You might share Your joy with me.  
set a - part For You to dwell with - in my heart.  
joy - ful tongue That sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song:

*Text and tune: Public domain*

## Fifth Reading

*Luke 2:1–7*

L The Savior is born in Bethlehem.

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>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, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## “Away in a Manger”

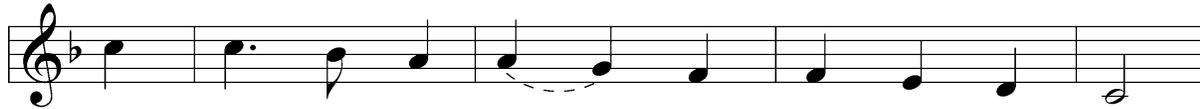
LSB 364



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 night.  
 And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

*Tune and text: Public domain*

### Sixth Reading

*Luke 2:8–20*

L An angel announces the Savior’s birth to the shepherds.

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest,  
 and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup>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.”<sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.<sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.<sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.<sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.<sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**“Angels We Have Heard on High”**

**LSB 368**



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



*Refrain*  
 Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

*Text and tune: Public domain*

**Third Article**

P God is our life-giving Sanctifier who gives us new birth! We confess our faith together...

C **I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the Lord and giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

**Seventh Reading**

*John 1:1–14*

P St. John marvels at the miracle of the Incarnation.

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

# “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

LSB 384  
sts. 1–2, 5



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -  
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,  
△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that  
Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -  
And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see  
deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face  
min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

*Text and tune: Public domain*

## Prayer of the Church

P ... Lord, in Your mercy,  
C hear our prayer.

## Lord's Prayer

C 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.**

**Benediction**

*Numbers 6:24–26*

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
 The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.  
**C** **Amen! Glory to God in the highest! And peace to His people on earth!**

**“Joy to the World”**

**LSB 387**



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

## **Offering**

You can give your offering by visiting [www.beautifulsavior-lsmo.org/donate](http://www.beautifulsavior-lsmo.org/donate)

### ***Acknowledgments***

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