

**Lessons and Carols – 3rd Sunday of Advent
(2020) for use on Dec. 25, 2021**

Prelude

Welcome to all, including the Saskatoon Lutheran churches.

On this, the third Sunday of Advent we continue to wait and get ready. We are thankful that God promises to come and be with us. We light the third candle in joy for the promises of God.

Song

We give you thanks, O God, for it is you who
called forth light,
and you led your people Israel with wonders
and with signs.
Lead us in this season's waiting with wonders
speaking hope
and signs of Jesus' incarnation;
For your mercy is our light and your
compassion is our guide
And with creation we glorify you
through the Son and in the Spirit now and
evermore. Amen.

Prayer

Let us pray: Faithful God, we are glad for your promises to us. We trust that the time is coming when all people will experience comfort, wholeness and liberty. May we do our part to bring your good news of great joy to all. Amen.

Bidding prayer

Dear People of God in this Advent Season of preparation, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of our hope that comes to us through the coming of the Messiah.

As we prepare to welcome the Christ Child into our lives, let us hear once again the story

of God's loving purpose that comes to us through the Word of the Scriptures.

Let us hear and heed in the Holy Scriptures the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against our Creator until the glorious redemption brought to us by the Messiah Jesus; and let us make our time together glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the church, the human family, and all the world.

Prayers of the People

We pray *Lord in your mercy*. . .

Hear our prayer

The Lord's Prayer

And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Jesus taught us, saying:

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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Children's Time

Unwrapping a gift – slowly and methodically -
That is what we are doing today:



LESSONS AND CAROLS

Lesson 1: Exodus 6:2-7

² God also spoke to Moses and said to him: "I am the LORD. ³ I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name 'The LORD' I did not make myself known to them. ⁴ I also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they resided as aliens. ⁵ I have also heard the groaning of the Israelites whom the Egyptians are holding as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. ⁶ Say therefore to the Israelites, 'I am the LORD, and I will free you from the burdens of the Egyptians and deliver you from slavery to them. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. ⁷ I will take you as my people, and I will be your God.

a brief silence for prayer and meditation

We wait for the Lord.

We will hope in God who saves us.

Carol

#266 ALL EARTH IS HOPEFUL, verses 1 & 2
(congregation sing along)

All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
This, the labor of people who struggle to see
How God's truth and justice set ev'ry-body
free.

People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
She conceived him, "God with us",
our brother, whose birth
Restores hope and courage to
children of this earth.

Lesson 2: Psalm 51

¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

a brief silence for prayer and meditation

We wait for the Lord.

We will hope in God who saves us.

Carol:

LOST IN THE NIGHT (Choir)

*Lost in the night do the people yet languish,
longing for morning the darkness to vanquish,
plaintively heaving a sigh full of anguish.*

Will not day come soon?

Will not day come soon?

*Must we be vainly awaiting the morrow?
Shall those who have light no light let us
borrow, Giving no heed to our burden of
sorrow?*

Will you help us soon?

Will you help us soon?

*Sorrowing wanderers in darkness yet
dwelling, dawned has the day of a radiance
excelling, death's dreaded darkness forever
dispelling. Christ is coming soon. Christ is
coming soon.*

*Will not day come soon? Come and save us
soon! Christ is coming soon.*

Lesson 3: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

a brief silence for prayer and meditation

We wait for the Lord.

We will hope in God who saves us.

Carol

#262 WAIT FOR THE LORD (Choir & congregation)

(congregation sing along)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, take heart!

Lesson 4: Isaiah 40:1-11

¹ Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD’s hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,

make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

⁶ A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

a brief silence for prayer and meditation

We wait for the Lord.

We will hope in God who saves us.

Carol

#264 PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY, verses
1 & 4
(congregation sing along)

Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
Foretold in sacred story;

Refrain:

Hosanna to the Lord,
For he fulfills God's Word!

His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness to abounding. **[Refrain]**

Lesson 5: Isaiah 11:1-9

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of
Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the
LORD.
³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the
poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the
earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his
mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill
the wicked.
⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his
waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of
the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on
the adder's den.
⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of
th LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

a brief silence for prayer and meditation

We wait for the Lord.
We will hope in God who saves us.



Carol

ALLELUIA FOR ADVENT (Choir)

*Allelu! Alleluia! Prepare for the Lord!
Allelu! Alleluia! Sing out in accord!
Hear the songs of the angels ring out through
the night!*

*Allelu! His is coming, the Lord of Light!
The Lord of Light!
Allelu! He is coming, the Lord of light!*

*Allelu! Alleluia! Rise up, hear this call!
Allelu! Alleluia! Rejoice one and all!
For the child infant lowly will come from
above!
Allelu! He will bring you God's peace and
love! God's peace and love!
Allelu! He will bring your God's peace and
love! God's peace and love!*

*Allelu! Alleluia! Prepare for the King!
Allelu! Alleluia! Let voices now ring!
Hear the songs we are singing with joy and
good cheer!
He shall come that holy night.
Prepare for the Lord of light!*

Lesson 6: Luke 1:26-35, 38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² 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 ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of

his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

a brief silence for prayer and meditation

We wait for the Lord.

We will hope in God who saves us.

Carol

#278 AWAY IN A MANGER (HandBells)

*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*



Lesson 7: Matthew 1:18-23

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:
²³ "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"
which means, "God is with us."

a brief silence for prayer and meditation

We wait for the Lord.

We will hope in God who saves us.

Carol

#257 O COME, O COME EMMANUEL, verses 1 & 2
(congregation sing along)

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel
Shall come to you,
O Israel!

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
Embracing all things far and nigh:
In strength and beauty come and stay:
Teach us your will and guide our way.

[Refrain]

Responsive Prayer

O Lord our God, be gracious to us;

We wait for you.

Dispel the darkness,

That all nations may come to your light.

Establish your peace on the earth;

Join our voices to sing your praise.

Comfort the sick and the weary;

Renew their strength and power.

O Lord our God, come to us,

That the earth may behold your glory. Amen

Blessing

Carol

#267 JOY TO THE WORLD, verses 1 & 4
(congregation sing along)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

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.