

CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS

Augustana

December 25 &/or 27, 2020



“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly.”
Colossians 3:15, 16

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome -

Prelude

Processional Hymn: **“Once In Royal David’s City”** **ELW # 269**

Verse 1: Elsa; V. 2: Congregation; V. 3: Choir v. 4: All

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.

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 meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

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.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God’s right hand on high;
there his children gather round,

bright like stars, with glory crowned.

Message – Our Christmas Lessons and Carols encircle the Feast of St. Stephen. And this is a good setting in which to hear once again the story of God’s incarnation. St. Stephen was one who took the Gospel to heart and lived out his faith unto death. Not that we all need to become martyrs. But may we like Stephen hear the Gospel story which is contained in our seven lessons, ponder deeply on their message and then live it faithfully day by day. The Bell choir plays the carol of Good King Wenceslas who, on the feast of St Stephen ventured out into the cold to care for one who was in need.

Augustana Bells “Good King Wenceslas”

Bidding Prayer

EXPLANATION OF A BIDDING PRAYER

In the season of Christmas, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God’s loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against God until the glorious redemption brought to us by God’s holy Child, Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of Jesus birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first let us pause for prayer: Our bidding prayer is an invitation to silent prayer. After I give voice to a particular need we will pause for a time of silent prayer centering our thoughts and prayers on that need.

Let us pray for the needs of God’s whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which Christ died, and especially for Christ’s church in our country and in this city. PAUSE

Because God particularly loves them, let us remember in Jesus’ name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.
PAUSE

Finally, let us remember before God Jesus’ pure and lowly mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh and with whom, through Jesus, we are one forevermore.
PAUSE

Lord’s Prayer

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

**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 for ever and ever. Amen.**

Bidding Carol: “**What Child is This?**” **ELW # 296 all verses**

1) What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

2) Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

3) So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Invitatory Prayer

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your Word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.

FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:8-15 - Gordon Morley

“God announces in the Garden of Eden the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent’s head.”

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, 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?’ 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 from 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 from 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 tricked me, and I ate.' The LORD God said to the serpent,
'Because you have done this,
 cursed are you among all animals
 and among all wild creatures;
upon 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 hers;
he will strike your head,
 and you will strike his heel.'

Carol: **"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" # 257 verses 1, 3, 6**

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 come, great Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. [*Refrain*]

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. [*Refrain*]

SECOND LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Mik Bickis

"Christ's birth and Kingdom are foretold by Isaiah."

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Carol: Choir “Break Forth O Beauteous Light”

THIRD LESSON Luke 1:26-33, 38 Noreen Donald

“The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.”

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ 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.

Carol: **“In the Bleak Mid-Winter” ELW # 294**

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain.
Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;
In the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

FOURTH LESSON “St. Luke 2:1-7 Bryan Tastad
St. Luke tells of Christ’s Holy Birth.”

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Carol: “Gesu Bambino” Sharon

FIFTH LESSON Luke 2:8-16 Deborah Buck
“The shepherds go unto the manger.”

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Carol: Choir: "Arching Starlight"

SIXTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11 Greg Fowlie-Neufeld

"The Wise Men are led by the Star to Jesus."

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Carol: Congregation "'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" # 284 verses 1, 2, 3

'Twas in the moon of wintertime
when all the birds had fled,
that God the Lord of all the earth
sent angel choirs instead;

before their light the stars grew dim,
and wand'ring hunters heard the hymn:

Refrain:

Jesus your king is born!
Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria!

Within a lodge of broken bark
the tender babe was found;
a ragged robe of rabbit skin
enwrapped his beauty round;
but as the hunter braves drew nigh,
the angel song rang loud and high: [*Refrain*]

The earliest moon of wintertime
is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory
on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt. [*Refrain*]

SEVENTH LESSON John 1:1-14 (**Pastor Marilyn**)

“St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.”

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Offertory Carol: **Choir “What a Wonderful Child”**

Christmas Collect

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray: Praise is our cry, O Holy One of Israel, for you have come among us and borne our burdens. Give us open hearts, that we might embrace our suffering sisters and brothers, and welcome Jesus in the hospitality we show to exiles for we entrust ourselves to you who create, redeem and sustain us. Now and in the time to come. **AMEN.**

Benediction:

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
The obedience of Joseph,
The joy of the angels,
The eagerness of the shepherds,
The determination of the magi,
And the peace of the Christ child.
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
AMEN

Recessional Hymn: **“O Come, All Ye Faithful” ELW # 283 v. 1, 3, 4**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest: [*Refrain*]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: [*Refrain*]

Dismissal: Go in Peace. Christ is with you.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Thank You

Readers: Gord Morley, Mik Bickis, Noreen Donald, Bryan Tastad, Deborah Buck, Greg Fowlie-Neufeld

Musicians: Elsa Lissel-DeCorby, Deborah Buck, Augustana St. Timothy choir, Augustana Bells, Sharon Buck,

Tech people: Bryan Tastad, Greg Fowlie-Neufeld

Once in a Royal David's City, Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1823-1895; Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876 © 2006 *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, publ. Augsburg Fortress.

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O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum.*, Köln 1710, tr. Composite (Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1987 *Augsburg Fortress*); Music: French processional, 15th cent. © 2006 *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, publ. Augsburg Fortress.

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