

Advent Midweek Series

“Lessons and Carols from Around the World”

December 15, 2021

As We Gather

The service of Lessons and Carols focuses on the promise and fulfillment of the Messiah. The main part of the service consists of nine readings tracing salvation. For each reading, there is a choral response. Tonight’s Lessons and Carols includes carols from around the world, as we celebrate that our Savior has come for all.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ireland/England

“Once in Royal David's City” LSB 376

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 mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

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.

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;
Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

INVOCATION

PRAYER

LESSONS & CAROLS

1ST LESSON Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Gail Valeskie

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. But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

He answered, “I heard You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

The man said, "The woman You put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

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

So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all the livestock

and all the wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly

and you will eat dust

all the days of your life.

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."

¹⁷ To Adam He said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,'

"Cursed is the ground because of you;

through painful toil you will eat of it

all the days of your life.

¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return."

Catalonia

CAROL

"Cold December Flies Away"

Arr. Paul D. Weber
Violin – Heidi Newman

Cold December flies away at the rose-red splendor.
April's crowning glory breaks while the whole world wonders
At the holy unseen pow'r of the tree which bears a flow'r.
On the blessed tree blooms the reddest flow'r.
On the tree blooms the rose here in love's own garden,
Full and strong in glory.

In the hopeless time of sin shadows deep had fallen.
All the world lay underneath.
Eyes were closed in sleeping.

But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose golden light brings unending joy,
Brings the endless joy of our hope,
Highest hope, of our hope's bright dawning,
Son belov'd of heaven.

Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world awakens.
In the Lily's purest flow'r dwells a wondrous fragrance.
And it spreads to all the earth from the moment of its birth;
And its beauty lives.
In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r,
And it spreads in its heav'nly brightness
Sweet perfume delightful.

2ND LESSON Genesis 22:15-18

Doris Klein

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶ and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed Me."

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Sweden

"Prepare the Royal Highway" LSB 343

1. 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:
Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfilled God's Word.

2. God's people, see Him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfilled God's Word.

3. Then fling the gates wide open
To greet Your promised King!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him!
All nations now adore Him!
Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfilled God's Word.

4. 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 so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfilled God's Word.

3RD LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Becky Vitkus

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.

For to us a child is born,
to us a Son is given,
and the government will be on His shoulders.
And He will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of His government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over His kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Cameroonian Carol

CAROL

"He Came Down"

Arr. Marty Haugen
Solo, Savannah Austin
Percussion, Chris Vecera

He came down that we may have love, hope, peace, joy, and life. Hallelujah forever more.

4TH LESSON Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9

Bob Klein

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of power,
the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD -

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;

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.

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.

The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

The infant will play near the hole of the cobra,
and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest.

They will neither harm nor destroy
on all My holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

Bohemia

“Let Our Gladness Have No End” LSB 381

1 Let our gladness have no end, alleluia!
For to earth did Christ descend, alleluia!

Refrain:

On this day God gave us
Christ, His Son, to save us;
Christ, His Son to save us.

2 Prophesied in days of old, alleluia!
God has sent Him as foretold, alleluia!
[Refrain]

3 See, the loveliest blooming rose, alleluia!
From the branch of Jesse grows, alleluia!
[Refrain]

4 Into flesh is made the Word, alleluia!
He, our refuge and our Lord, alleluia!
[Refrain]

5TH LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 38

Heidi Newman

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. 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, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon 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. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

CAROL

China

"Midnight Stars Make Bright the Skies" - Qi-fang Liang

arr. Mark Sedio

Violin - Heidi Newman

Midnight stars make bright the skies,
Bethlehem in slumber lies:
Glist'ning heav'n sends forth a great light,
Shepherds see wondrous sight!
Angels sing. Silken sounds ring.
Frightened shepherds hear them say: "Born today!"
Glory be to God on high,
Blest are all beneath the sky.

Midnight slumber lies o'er all,
One lone bright lamp lights the stall.
Choose old clothing, wrap Him warmly,
Manger cradle be. Born to save us from our sin,
Word made flesh, our lives to win,
Came to earth from heaven's throne,
Mortals' sin to bear alone.
Glory be to God on high,
Blest are all beneath the sky.

6TH LESSON Luke 2:1, 3-7

Ruth Peterson

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to his own town to register.

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. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Poland

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" LSB 393

Infant holy, Infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall.
Oxes 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.

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 is Lord of all.
Christ the child is Lord of all.

7TH LESSON Luke 2:8-16

Sheila Flory

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

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests."

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." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

CAROL

United States

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" - African American Spiritual

Arr. John Helgen
Solo - Ruth Peterson

Go! Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere!
Go! Go, tell it on the mountain,
Jesus Christ is born,
Yes, Jesus Christ is born!

Refrain:

Go! Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere!
Go! Go, tell it on the mountain,
Jesus Christ is born,
Yes, Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flicks by night
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. *Refrain:*

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo, above the earth
Rang out the Angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain:*

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

8TH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11

Gerry Schneider

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

" 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will be the shepherd of My people Israel.'"

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find Him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship Him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

England

“Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning” LSB 400

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid; Star of the East, the horizon adorning, Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.	ocean, Myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine? Vainly we offer each ample oblation, Vainly with gifts would His favor secure, Richer by far is the heart's adoration; Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.
Cold on His cradle the dew-drops are shining; Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall; Angels adore Him in slumber reclining, Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.	Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid; Star of the East, the horizon adorning, Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.
Shall we not yield Him, in costly devotion, Fragrance of Edom and off'rings divine, Gems of the mountain and pearls of the	

9TH LESSON John 1:1-14

Mike Newton

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Germany

"A Great and Mighty Wonder" LSB 383

A great and mighty wonder
A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant
With virgin honors pure!

While thus they sing your Monarch,
Those bright angelic bands,
Rejoice, O vales and mountains,
And oceans, clap your hands. *Refrain:*

Refrain:
Proclaim the Savior's birth:
"To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth!"

Since all He comes to ransom,
By all be He adored;
The Infant born in Beth'hem,
The Savior and the Lord! *Refrain:*

The Word is made incarnate,
And yet remains on high;
And cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky. *Refrain:*

All idols then shall perish,
And Satan's lying cease,
And Christ shall wield His scepter,
Decreeing endless peace. *Refrain:*

PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Serving in Worship Tonight

Preacher	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Lay Readers	Sanctuary Choir
Sound Technicians	Bill Clark
Streaming Technician	Josh Wright
Worship Preparation Team	Doris & Bob Klein, Betsy Gewirz
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Ushers	The De Young Family
Projection Technician	Brian Schoenfeld