

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

A Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

December 13 and 14, 2025

4 p.m. Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Sunday



Lessons and Carols

The tradition of the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols dates from 1880. It was introduced by the Bishop of Truro, The Rt. Rev. E. W. Benson. In 1918, the service was adopted by King's College, Cambridge, where over the last century it has become justly famous. Let us sing heartily and with joy, not only at the blessed birth of our Lord, but also at His glorious Resurrection and Ascension. We encourage you to fully participate in singing the carols, listening to the Scripture, and meditating on the song texts.



Pre-Service Music

"A la Venue de Noel"

Claude Balbastre

"The Little Drummer Boy / Pat-a-Pan"

Diane Bish

The Pastoral Greeting

Pastor John Larson

The Invocation and Responsorial

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

People: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

Pastor: When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman,

People: born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law.

Pastor: Restore us, O God of Hosts.

People: Show us the light of Your countenance and we shall be saved.

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.**

Processional Hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful"
(Please rise to face and follow the cross)

LSB 379
ADESTE FIDELIS

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:

CHORUS: *O come, let us adore him,*
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! **CHORUS**
(with Choir Descant, arr. David Willcocks)

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, In the highest: **CHORUS**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing:
CHORUS



The First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15 **Readers: Mike Price (4:00), Larry Nisbet (9:30)**

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

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."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

The Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18

Readers: Curt Engle (4:00), Sherry Hitztaler (9:30)

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

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 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, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

A Christmas Song (Sunday only) "Fum, Fum Fum"

arr. David Shaler
Ascension Chorale
Guitarist, Dave Olsson

The Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Readers: Mike Price (4:00), Dennis Lord (9:30)

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

The Fourth Lesson: Micah 5:2-4 Readers: Curt Engle (4:00), Benjamin Dallet (9:30)

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

"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." Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. 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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

The Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-35,38

Readers: Mike Price (4:00), Joyce Lord (9:30)

The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed virgin Mary.

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

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

A Christmas Hymn "Glory to God the Angels Sing"

arr. Kessel

(Chorus sung twice at the end)

1.Low in a hum-ble man-ger Lit - tle Lord Je - sus lay, Watched by the vir-gin
 2.Lit - tle the lov - ing moth-er Dreamed of its mean-ing then, How Heshould die on
 6 moth - er, There on a bed of hay, Keep - ing her lov - ing vig - il Far from the world-ly
 12 Cal - v'ry, Die for the sins of men Down thru the wea-ry a - ges, Out from the man-ger
 17 throngs, When thru the night came ring - ing Glor - ri - ous an - gel songs.
 bed Streams all the light of heav - en, Soon o'er the world to spread.
 21 "Glo - ry to God" the an - gels sing; Prais - es to Christ, the new - born King;
 25 "Peace be on earth good will to men" Hear we the an - gels sing a-gain
 29 "Glo - ry to God" the an - gels sing; Prais - es to Christ, the new - born King;
 "Peace be on earth good will to men, Good will to men!"

The Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

Readers: Curt Engle (4:00), Fred Wucherpennig (9:30)

Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

A Christmas Carol “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

LSB 361

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv’n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav’n.
No ear may hear His coming; but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still, the dear Christ enters in.



A Christmas Song (Sunday Only) “All is Well”

arr. Lloyd Larson

Ascension Chorale

Stephanie Bork, violinist

The Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-16 Readers: Mike Price (4:00), Terry Utecht (9:30)

The shepherds go to the manger.

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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

A Christmas Song (Sunday Only) "Come and Worship"

Bebo Norman and Jason Ingram
Agape Praise Team

A Christmas Song (Sunday Only)

"Born is the King (It's Christmas)" with "Joy to the World"

Matt Crocker and Scott Ligertwood
Combined Agape and Youth Praise Teams

Joy To The World

Verse 1 - Praise Teams Only

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

Verse 2 - Congregation Sings

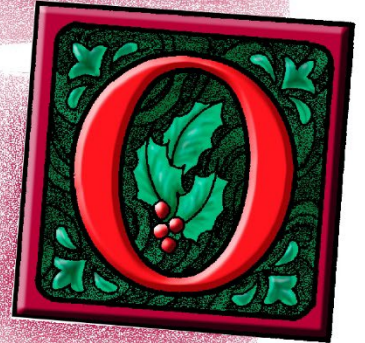
Joy to the earth the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

Verse 3 - Congregation Sings

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found
Far as far as the curse is found

Verse 4 - Congregation Sings

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



A Christmas Song (Saturday Only) "Mary Did You Know?"

Rufus/Alan
Michael Zehnder, soloist

The Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11

Readers: Curt Engle (4:00) Joyce Dowdy (9:30)

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

A Christmas Carol "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

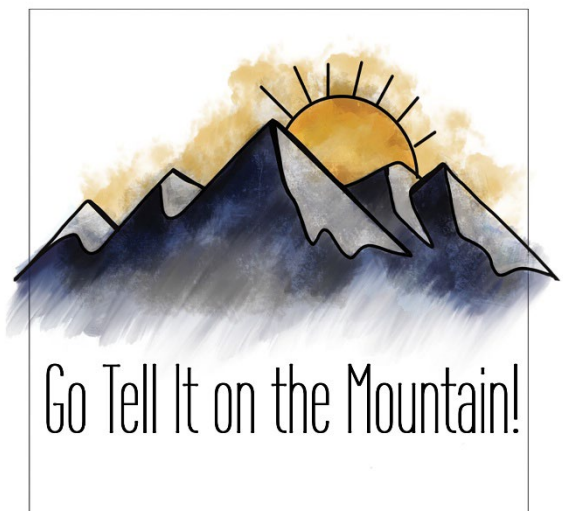
LSB 388

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks 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 lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. **Refrain**

Homily (4:00)

"It's Time"

Pastor Larson

Text: Philippians 4:4-7

The Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14

Reader: Pastor Larson

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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 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.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

The Offering (Sunday Only)

"For Unto Us a Child is Born"

arr. Mark Hayes

Diana Gaide, pianist

The Prayer of the Church

Pastor: With longing for the coming of Christ, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all people according to their needs. For the whole Christian Church that we might bear fruits worthy of Repentance. - For leaders of the world, that they would turn their hearts to You and work for peace among all people. - For the hungry, the lonely, the homeless, and those who lack the basic necessities of life, that our sharing may bring them joy. - For those who are hospitalized or ill (*especially...*), that they might cast all their cares upon You. - With thanksgiving we remember all the faithful departed who have died and rest securely in Your arms. God of joy, hear the prayers we offer in the name of Jesus Christ, whose coming is certain and whose day is drawing near.

People: Amen.

THE SACRAMENT (4:00 only – 9:30 service continues on next page)

Preface (from Divine Service, Setting One - spoken)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Words of Institution (Pastor)

The Lord's Prayer: Matthew 6:9-13

People: 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.

Music at the Distribution

Special Organ Music

"To Shepherds as They Watched by Night"

arr. Charles Ore

General Communion Blessing

9:30 am Service:

The Lord's Prayer: Matthew 6:9-13

People: 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.

The Benediction (4:00 and 9:30 services continue)

Pastor: May Almighty God, by whose mercy our Savior the Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of His blessing. May He whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. May you, who rejoice in the first advent of our Redeemer, at His second advent receive, by His great mercy, unending life. And the blessing of the Almighty God, the Father, ✠ Son, and

Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.
People **Amen.**

Closing Hymn “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Mendelssohn

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all you nations, rise; Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**



Congregational Concerns

Pastor Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God!

The Postlude “A Festal Christmas Fanfare” (from the Fourth Concerto)

J.S. Bach



Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT / PREACHER

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST

ELDERS

ACOLYTE

CHOIR, BELL & YOUTH PRAISE TEAM DIRECTOR

CHOIR ACCOMPANIST / PIANIST

BANNER BEARER

The Reverend John Larson

Michael Zehnder

Jeff Dunker, David Pearman

Brynn Aldrich

Stephanie Roettjer

Diana Gaide

Jim Wert



The Ministry of Music

THE AGAPE PRAISE TEAM

Brianna Bly, Rose Berger, Lisa O'Neal,
Bob Shiflet, Ken Price, Anna Wishon, Michael Zehnder

YOUTH PRAISE TEAM

Christy Williams, Matthew Faulk, Brynn Aldrich
Ben Williams, Eli Faulk, Stephanie Roettjer

GLORIA DEI HANDBELL RINGERS

Ann Westra, Durwin Schmitt, Lisa Wert, Linda Olsen,
Bob Schmitt, Stephanie Roettjer, Tom Munson, Eli Faulk, Angel Ihly

ASCENSION CHORALE

Allen Kent, Margaret Kent, Ann Westra, Ellise Friend, Carrie Friend,
Diana Gaide, Roger Gaide, Jim Wert, Angel Ihly,
Judy Hermsmeyer, Norm Hermsmeyer, Jenna Lawrenz,
Norm Finrock, Linda Finrock, Dawn Munson, Tom Munson,
Stephanie Roettjer, Lisa Wert, Tom Firth, Susan Firth



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