

A colorful illustration of a nativity scene. At the top, two angels in blue robes with golden halos and trumpets flank a large, multi-pointed yellow star. Below the star, the text is centered. The scene is framed by blue and white decorative lines. On the left and right sides, there are palm trees. At the bottom, the Virgin Mary in a red robe kneels before the infant Jesus in a manger. To the right, a shepherd in a green robe stands with a staff, a white sheep, and a grey donkey. On the left, three wise men in purple robes offer gifts. The entire scene is set against a white background.

**The Lutheran Church of Our Saviour
Presents:**

“Carols for the 4th Sunday of Advent

A service of Lessons & Carols

Music set by Healey Willan

Featuring

**The Choir of Our Saviour
& Lucas Myers, keyboard**

Sunday, December 22nd

At 10:00 a.m.

The Opening Carol
sung by the congregation
“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free
 2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
 3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,

and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.
 the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.

So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm
 that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease

God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Please remain standing.

The Bidding Prayer

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, at this Adventtide let us pray to God with all sincerity for the gift of the Holy Spirit, who shall lead us:

To the proper praise of God, the Father, who in the greatness of His love poured down heaven's light and love in the birth of Christ, His Son, and

To learn and mark Christ in our use of the Scripture and in the singing of hymns and carols, and

To beg for peace and harmony among all men and women everywhere, especially in our own midst, and

To help us proclaim the joyous message that Christ is born.

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, our heavenly Father, who has chosen us to be his own and has already at our Baptism shed on us abundantly the Holy Spirit, grant unto us an ever-increasing measure of your grace as we hear, read, and study Your holy Word, especially during this sacred season.

Let us rightly praise You, the Father, who in the fulness of time sent Your dead Son into the world that He might be our Savior from sin and everlasting death, and to make us children of Your grace and heirs of eternal life and salvation, and help us learn to know our Savior ever better and appreciate His Gospel and sing our hymns and carols.

As we have found peace of conscience, heart, and mind in Your grace through your Son and the Holy Spirit, help us to find the selfsame peace through Jesus, the Savior of all mankind, and cause us also to live in harmony and peace with one another..

Grant also health to our bodies, and let our voices resound in singing praise to your holy name and to the edification of our brothers and sisters, and help us to become eager witnesses of your Son and to proclaim the joyous message that Christ was made man for the salvation of all mankind; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Pastor: Let us conclude our prayer to God in the words of His dear Son:

All: **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 glory forever and ever. Amen.**

The congregation may be seated as the morning offering is collected)



Offering Carol: Prepare the Way, O Zion

Prepare the way, O Zion! Ye awful deeps, rise high,
Sink low, ye towering mountains, the Lord is drawing nigh,
The righteous King of Glory foretold in sacred story,
Oh, blest is He that came in God the Father's name!

O Zion, He approaches, Your Lord and King for aye,
Strew palms where He advances, spread garments in His way.
God's promise faileth never, Hosanna and forever,
Oh, blest is He that came in God the Father's name!

Fling wide your portal, Zion, to hail your glorious King!
His tidings of salvation to ev'ry people bring,
Who, waiting yet in sadness, would sing His praise in gladness.
Oh blest is He that came in God the Father's name.

The First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15



Reader: *God declares in the Garden of Eden that the women's Seed shall bruise the serpents 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."

Reader: Thanks be to God.

The Carol: Maria Walks Amid the Thorn

Maria walks amid the thorn, Kyrie eleison,
Maria walks amid the thorn, which seven years no leaf has born,
Jesus and Maria.

What 'neath her heart doth Mary bear, Kyrie eleison,
A little Child doth Mary bear, beneath her heart He nestles there,
Jesus and Maria.

And as the two are passing near, Kyrie eleison,
Lo, roses on the thorn appear,
Lo, roses on the thorn appear,
Jesus and Maria.



The Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18

Reader: God promises Abraham that in his Seed all nations of the earth shall be blessed.

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Reader: Thanks be to God.

The Carol: All My Heart This Night Rejoices

All my heart today rejoices
As I hear far and near sweetest angel voices.

“Christ is born,” their choirs are singing
Till the air ev’rywhere now with joy is ringing.

Hark, a voice from yonder manger,
Soft and sweet, doth entreat:
“Flee from woe and danger!

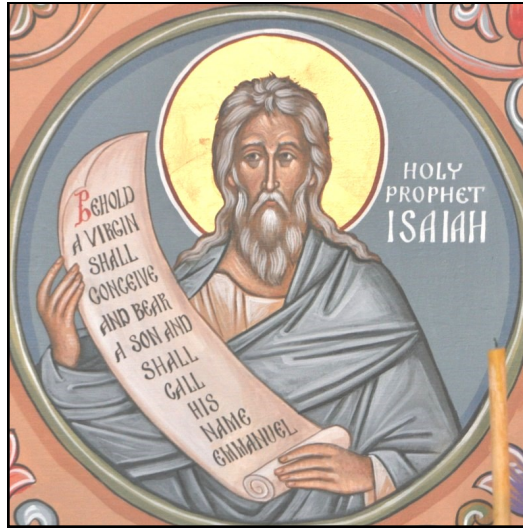
Brethren, come! From all that grieves you, you are freed;
All you need I will surely give you.”

Come, then, let us hasten yonder!
Here let all, great and small, kneel in awe and wonder!

Love Him who with love is yearning!
Hail the Star that from far
Bright with hope is burning.

Thee, dear Lord, with heed I’ll cherish,
Live to Thee and with Thee dying shall not perish;
But shall reign with Thee forever
Far on high in the joy that can alter never.





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

Reader: The prophet Isaiah foretells Christ's birth and His kingdom.

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 Counselor, 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 onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

The Carol: Child in the Manger

Child in the manger, infant of Mary;
Outcast and stranger, Lord of all,
Child who inherits all our transgressions,
All our demerits on Him fall.

Once the most holy Child of Salvation,
Gently and lowly lived below;
Now as our glorious, mighty Redeemer,
See Him victorious o'er each foe.

Prophets foretold Him, Infant of wonder;
Angels behold Him on His throne;
Worthy our Savior of all their praises;
Happy forever are His own.





The Fourth Lesson: Micah 5:2-4

Reader: The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

Reader: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem

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 darkness shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God, the King, and peace to men on earth.

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.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast our our sin, and enter in be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!



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

Reader: The angel Gabriel visits 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, favored 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 favor 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."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 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. 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.

Reader: Thanks be to God.



The Carol: Love Came Down at Christmas

Love came down at Christmas, Love, all lovely Love Divine;
Love was born at Christmas, Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead, Love Incarnate, Love Divine;
Worship we our Jesus; But where-with for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token, Love be yours, and love be mine,
Love to God and all me, Love for plea and gift and sign.



The Sixth Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

Reader: St. Matthew tells of Christ's nativity.

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. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

The Carol: Away in a Manger

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.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.



The Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-16

Reader: The shepherds go to 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 Savior, 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 favors!"

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.

Reader: Thanks be to God.



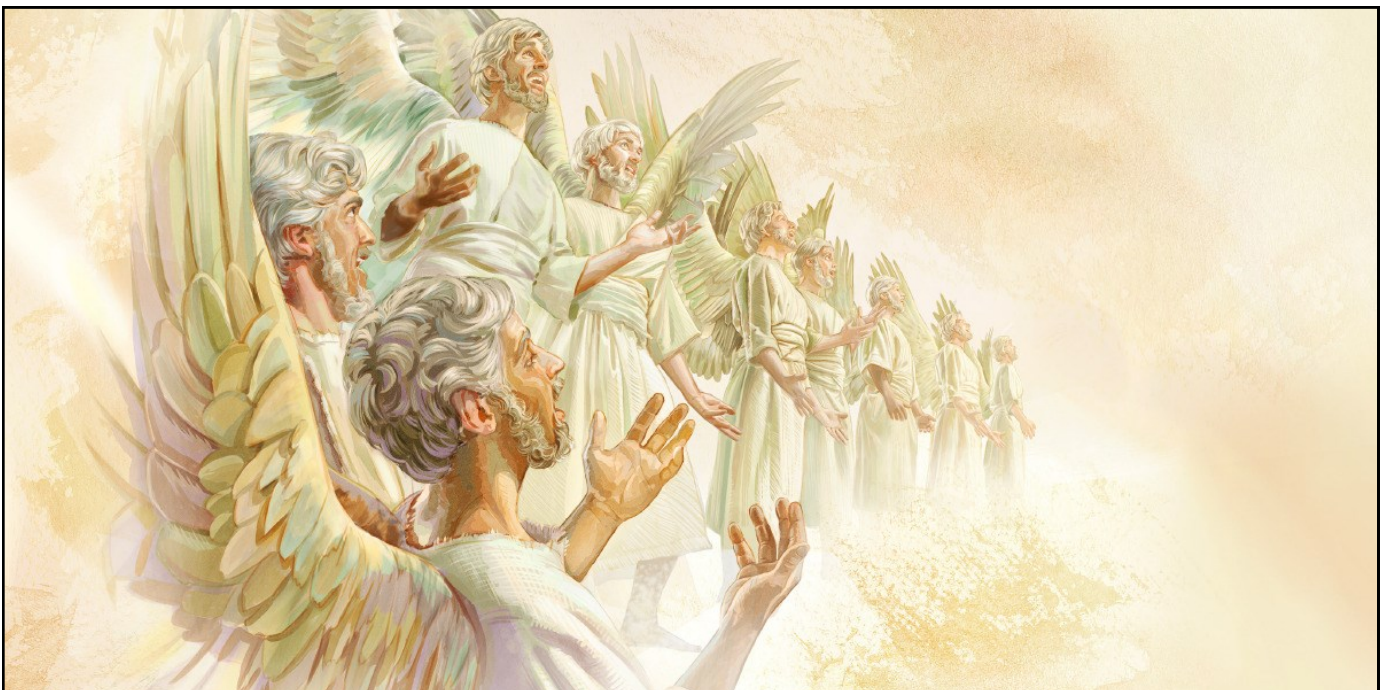
The Carol: He Whom Joyous Shepherds Praised

He whom joyous shepherds praised,
When the angels song was raised,
Bidding them be not amazed,
Heav'n's all glorious King is born.

He whom sages westward faring,
Myrrh and gold and incense bearing,
Worshipped, bowing low before Him,
Reigns as King this happy morn.

Now rejoice with Jesus' mother;
Praise her newborn Son, our Brother;
Angels vie with one another,
Praising Him beyond the sky.

Sing to Christ, the King who reigneth,
Yet of Mary manhood gaineth,
Born our God; let us adore Him:
Glory be to God on high!



The Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

Reader: 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

The Carol: What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

What star is this, with beams so bright,
More beautiful than the noonday light?
It shines to herald forth the King
And Gentiles to His crib to bring.

True spoke the prophet from afar
Who told the rise of Jacob's Star;
And Eastern sages with amaze
Upon the wondrous token gaze.

To God the Father, heav'nly Light,
To Christ, revealed in earthly night,
To God the Holy Ghost we raise
Our equal and unceasing praise.



The Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14

Pastor: *St. John unfolds the 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.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

Remarks on the Season: Pastor Wilck

The Carol: Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful

Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him born, the King of Angels:

Refrain: Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord:

See how the shepherds summoned to His cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with holy fear;
We, too, will thither bend our joyful footsteps:

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n 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



Closing Prayers

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

The Collect

Pastor: Lord God, gracious Father, who in the fulness of the time didst send Thy Son to become man, to assume our flesh and become our Brother, we thank Thee for Thy truth and fatherly goodness in giving us this Savior, by whose birth we are delivered from sin, death, Satan, and hell; and we beseech Thee, keep us until the end in true knowledge of our Redeemer, that, with all the holy angels, we may rejoice at His nativity and behold Him, together with Thee and the Holy Ghost, in glory and majesty, world without end.

All: **Amen.**

The Benediction

Pastor: May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, rest upon us and upon our work and worship done in His name. May He give us light to guide us, courage to support our work, and love to unite us, now and forevermore.

All: **Amen.**



The Closing Carol

sung by the congregation
“Joy to the World”

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions 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

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

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.

heav'n and na - ture sing,



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