

# A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS



December 18, 2022

5:00 p.m.

**Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School**

## ABOUT THE SERVICE

The traditional Lessons and Carols service was drawn up by E.W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the wooden shed which then served as his cathedral in Truro, England at 10:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve 1880. A.C. Benson recalled: "My father arranged from ancient sources a little service for Christmas Eve, nine carols and nine tiny lessons, which were read by various officers of the Church, beginning with a chorister and ending, through the different grades with the Bishop." The suggestion had come from G.H.S. Walpole, later Bishop of Edinburgh. Almost immediately other churches adapted the service for their own use. A wider fame began to grow when the service was sung at King's College Chapel, Cambridge, and first broadcast in 1928. With the exception of 1929, it has been broadcast annually, even during the Second World War when the ancient glass (and also all heat) had been removed from the Chapel and the name of King's could not be broadcast for security reasons. Since it's popularization by King's College, the service has become widely used by various denominations. Every year more North American congregations are discovering the beauty of a traditional English service called, very simply, "Nine Lessons and Carols." The structure of the service is as simple as the title: nine passages of Scripture are followed by nine carols. But the content of those readings and the traditional way of conducting the service have become very meaningful to many congregations.

Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service derives from the lessons and not the music. The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God seen through the windows and words of the Bible. Local interests appear in the bidding prayer and personal circumstances give point to different parts of the service. Many of those who took part in the first service must have recalled those killed in the Great War when it came to the famous passage, "all those who rejoice with us but on another shore and in a greater light." The center of the service is still found by those who "go in heart and mind" and who consent to follow where the story leads. Then they may see revealed the God who is among us, and worship.

### *Reminder*

*It is the tradition of Saint Luke Lutheran Church to maintain silence in the worship area so that people may pray. Please help us preserve an atmosphere of quiet reverence before worship begins, remembering to turn cell phones off; let the music of the opening voluntary quiet your thoughts as you prepare for worship.*

**PRELUDE**

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

from *La Nativité du Seigneur*

Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)

III. Desseins éternels

VI. Les anges

Canzone from Symphonic Chorale, "Jesu, meine Freude" Op.87 No.2

Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

*Please stand. All join singing at the third verse.*



**Choristers**

1. 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.

4. 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 feeleth for our sadness,  
 and he shareth in our gladness.

**Choir**

2. 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 Saviour holy.

5. And our eyes at last shall see him  
 through his own redeeming love,  
 for that child, so dear and gentle,  
 is our Lord in heaven above;  
 and he leads his children on  
 to the place where he is gone.

**All**

3. And through all his wondrous childhood  
 he would honour and obey,  
 love and watch the lowly maiden  
 in whose gentle arms he lay;  
 Christian children all must be  
 mild, obedient, good as he.

6. 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;  
 when, like stars, his children, crowned,  
 all in white shall wait around.

*Once in royal David's City  
 Descant: David Willcocks (1919-2015)*

## THE BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, this day it is our duty and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, and the Babe, lying in the manger. Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people; for peace upon the earth he came to save, for love and unity within the one Church he did build; for goodwill among all peoples. And particularly at this time, let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not our Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude who no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught us.

**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.**

May the almighty God bless us with divine grace, may Christ give us the joy of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above, may the Spirit of Love bring us all. **Amen.**

*The Congregation remains standing.*

## THE INVITATORY CAROL

This is the truth sent from above,  
The truth of God, the God of love:  
Therefore don't turn me from your door,  
But hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate  
Is that God did man create,  
The next thing which to you I'll tell,  
Woman was made with man to dwell.

Then, after this, 'twas God's own choice  
To place them both in Paradise,  
There to remain, from evil free,  
Except they ate of such a tree.

But they did eat, which was a sin,  
And thus their ruin did begin.  
Ruined themselves, both you and me,  
And all of their posterity.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,  
Till God the Lord did interpose,  
And so a promise soon did run,  
That he would redeem us by his Son.

*This is the Truth Sent From Above*

Words: English Traditional

Music: English Traditional, collected by Ralph Vaughan Williams, arr. James Kirkby (b. 1949)

*All are seated.*

## FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

*The First Lesson is from the third chapter of the Book of Genesis in which Adam and Eve disobey God and learn of the consequences.*

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." And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CAROL

The tree of life my soul hath seen,  
Laden with fruit and always green;  
The trees of nature fruitless be,  
Compared with Christ the Apple Tree.

His beauty doth all things excel,  
By faith I know but ne'er can tell  
The glory which I now can see,  
In Jesus Christ the Appletree.

For happiness I long have sought,  
And pleasure dearly I have bought;  
I missed of all but now I see  
'Tis found in Christ the Appletree.

I'm weary with my former toil -  
Here I will sit and rest awhile,  
Under the shadow I will be,  
Of Jesus Christ the Appletree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,  
It keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be  
With Jesus Christ the Appletree

*Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*  
Words: from *Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs*  
Music: Elizabeth Poston (1905-87)

## SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22: 15-18

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his offspring, all the nations of the earth will 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."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CAROL

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,  
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die,  
For poor ornery people like you and like I:  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow stall:  
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.  
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall:  
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,  
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,  
Or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing:  
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

*I Wonder As I Wander*

Words: Appalachian Carol

Music: Appalachian Carol, arr. Richard Shephard (1949-2021)

## THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*Isaiah foretells the coming of the Savior 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CAROL

What sweeter music can we bring  
Than a carol, for to sing  
The birth of this our heavenly King?  
Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,  
And give the honor to this day,  
That sees December turned to May.  
That sees December turned to May.

Why does the chilling winter's morn  
Smile, like a field beset with corn?  
Or smell like a meadow newly-shorn,  
Thus, on the sudden? Come and see  
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:  
'Tis He is born, whose quickening birth  
Gives life and luster, public mirth,  
To heaven, and the under-earth.

We see him come, and know him ours,

Who, with his sunshine and his showers,  
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.  
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.  
The darling of the world is come,  
And fit it is, we find a room  
To welcome him. To welcome him.  
The nobler part Of all the house here,  
is the heart.

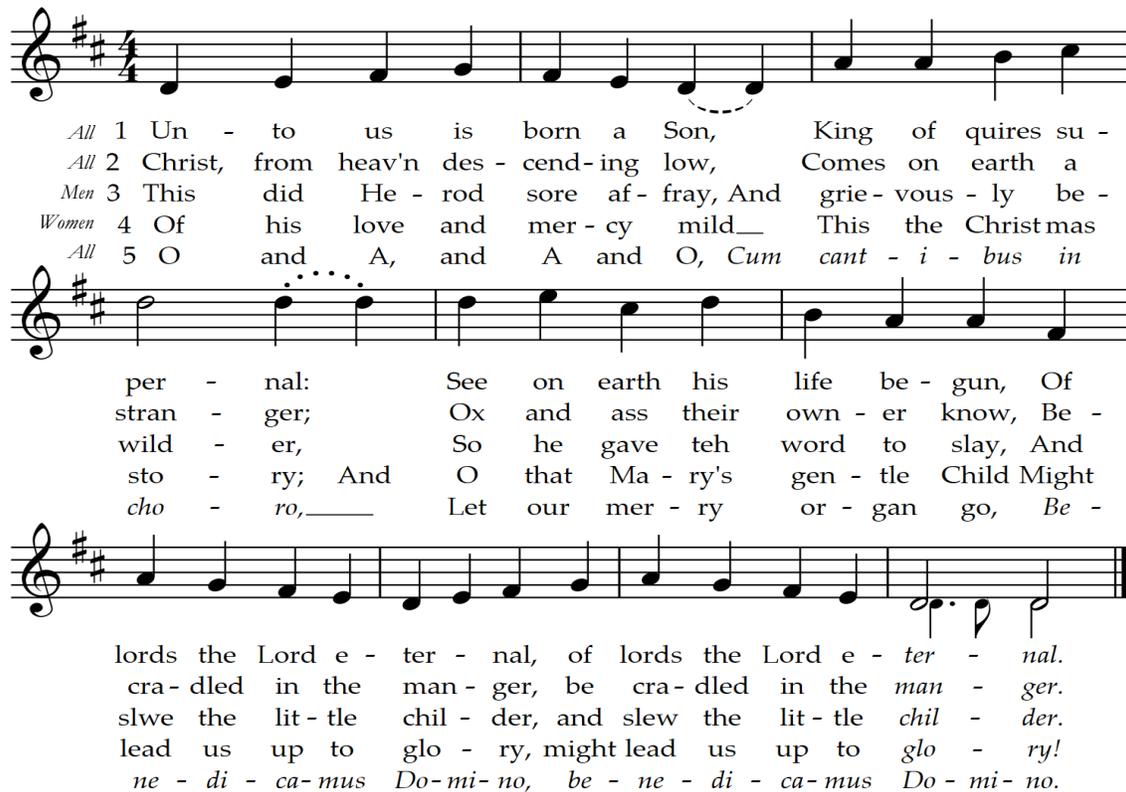
Which we will give him; and bequeath  
This holly, and this ivy wreath,  
To do him honour, who's our King,  
And Lord of all this revelling.

What sweeter music can we bring,  
Than a carol for to sing  
The birth of this our heavenly King?

*What Sweeter Music*  
Words: Robert Herrick (1591-1674)  
Music: John Rutter (b. 1945)

All stand and sing.

HYMN



All 1 Un - to us is born a Son, King of quires su -  
All 2 Christ, from heav'n des - cend - ing low, Comes on earth a  
Men 3 This did He - rod sore af - fray, And grie - vously be -  
Women 4 Of his love and mer - cy mild - This the Christmas  
All 5 O and A, and A and O, Cum cant - i - bus in  
per - nal: See on earth his life be - gun, Of  
stran - ger; Ox and ass their own - er know, Be -  
wild - er, So he gave teh word to slay, And  
sto - ry; And O that Ma - ry's gen - tle Child Might  
cho - ro, Let our mer - ry or - gan go, Be -  
lords the Lord e - ter - nal, of lords the Lord e - ter - nal.  
cra - dled in the man - ger, be cra - dled in the man - ger.  
slwe the lit - tle chil - der, and slew the lit - tle chil - der.  
lead us up to glo - ry, might lead us up to glo - ry!  
ne - di - ca - mus Do - mi - no, be - ne - di - ca - mus Do - mi - no.

Unto Us Is Born A Son

Music: *Piae Cantiones*, 1582, arr. David Willcocks

All are seated.

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 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. 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; 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.

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. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; or the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## CAROL

*Riu riu chiu, Shepherd at the river,  
Guard us from the wolf, your people to deliver.*

Tender is the lamb, the angry wolf no stranger:  
But almighty God protected her from danger.  
Made in such a way that she could know no sinning:  
Spotless was the Virgin from the world's beginning.

Now this new-born child is King of all creation:  
Saviour clothed in flesh has come to every nation.  
to redeem us all, yet born a child so lowly:  
Come to earth from heaven, infinite and holy.

Prophets born of old have told us of his glory:  
Angels in the sky are echoing the story.  
Glory be to God on high, their voices singing:  
Earth resounds their tidings, and with joy is ringing.

*Riu, Riu, Chiu*  
Words: Basque Carol  
Music: Mateo Flecha (1481-1553)

## FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1: 26-35, 38

*The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High.*

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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CAROL

The first good joy that Mary had,  
It was the joy of one:  
to see her blessed Jesus Christ  
When He was first her Son.  
When He was first her Son, good man;  
And blessed may he be,  
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
to all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had,  
It was the joy of two:  
to see her own son Jesus Christ,  
to make the lame to go.  
to make the lame to go, good man;  
And blessed may he be,  
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
to all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had,  
It was the joy of three:  
to see her own son Jesus Christ,  
to make the blind to see.  
to make the blind to see, good man;  
And blessed may he be,  
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
to all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had,  
It was the joy of four:  
to see her own son Jesus Christ,  
to read the Bible o'er.  
to read the Bible o'er, good man;  
And blessed may he be,  
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
to all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had,  
It was the joy of five:  
to see her own son Jesus Christ,  
to bring the dead alive.  
to bring the dead alive, good man; And blessed may  
he be,  
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
to all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had,  
It was the joy of six:  
to see her own son Jesus Christ,  
Upon the crucifix.  
Upon the crucifix, good man; And blessed may he be,  
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
to all eternity.

The next good joy that Mary had,  
It was the joy of seven:  
to see her own son Jesus Christ,  
to wear the crown of Heaven.  
to wear the crown of Heaven, good man; <sup>[1]</sup>And  
blessed may he be,  
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
to all eternity.

*The Seven Joys of Mary*  
Words: Traditional Carol  
Music: Traditional Carol, arr. Richard Shephard

## SIXTH LESSON

*Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

Luke 2:1-7

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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### CAROL

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows  
Upon a winter night  
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose  
The King of Love and Light.

Again the heart with rapture glows  
to greet the holy night  
That gave the world its Christmas Rose  
Its King of Love and Light.

The angels sang, the shepherds sang  
The grateful earth rejoiced  
And at His blessed birth the stars  
Their exultation voiced.

Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name  
The grateful chorus swell  
From paradise to earth He came  
That we with Him might dwell.

O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord.

O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord.

*Gesu Bambino*

Words: Frederick H. Martens

Music: Pietro Yon (1886-1943), arr. Mark Schweizer (1956-2019)

### SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2: 8-16

*Saint Luke tells how 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## CAROL

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.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter  
a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty,  
Jesus Christ.

Enough for him whom cherubim  
worship night and day,  
a breastful of milk  
and a mangerful of hay:  
enough for him  
whom angels fall down before,  
the ox and ass and camel  
which adore.

Angels and archangels  
may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim  
thronged the air,  
but only his mother,  
in her maiden bliss,  
worshiped the Beloved  
with a kiss.

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.

*In the Bleak Mid-Winter*

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-94)

Music: Gustav Holst (1874-1934), arr. Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

All stand and sing.

HYMN

1. God rest you mer-ry, gen-tle-men, Let no-thing you dis-may, For  
2. From God our heav'ly Fa-ther A bless-ed an-gel came, And  
Je-sus Christ our Sa-vior Was born up-on this day, To  
un-to cer-tain shep-herds Brought ti-dings of the same, How  
save us all from Sa-tan's power When we were gone a-stray: O  
that in Beth-le-hem was born The Son of God by name:  
ti-dings of com-fort and joy, and  
joy, O ti-dings of com-fort and joy.

3. The shepherds at those tidings  
Rejoiced much in mind,  
And left their flock a-feeding,  
In tempest, storm and wind,  
And went to Bethlehem straightway  
This blessed babe to find:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy.*

4. But when to Bethlehem they came,  
Whereat this infant lay,  
They found him in a manger,  
Where oxen feed on hay;  
His mother Mary kneeling,  
Unto the Lord did pray;  
*O tidings of comfort and joy.*

5. Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
All others doth deface:  
*O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*God Rest You Merry Gentlemn*

Music: English traditional carol, arr. by David Willcocks

All are seated.

*Saint Matthew tells how 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### CAROL

*Lully, lullay, Thou little tiny Child,  
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.  
Lullay, thou little tiny Child,  
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.*

That woe is me, poor Child for Thee!  
And ever mourn and sigh,  
For thy parting neither say nor sing,  
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do,  
For to preserve this day  
This poor youngling for whom we do sing  
Bye, bye, lully, lullay.

Herod, the king, in his raging,  
Charged he hath this day  
His men of might, in his owne sight,  
All young children to slay.

*Lully, Lulla, Lullay*  
Words: Traditional Carol  
Music: Philip Stopford (b. 1977)

*Saint 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.

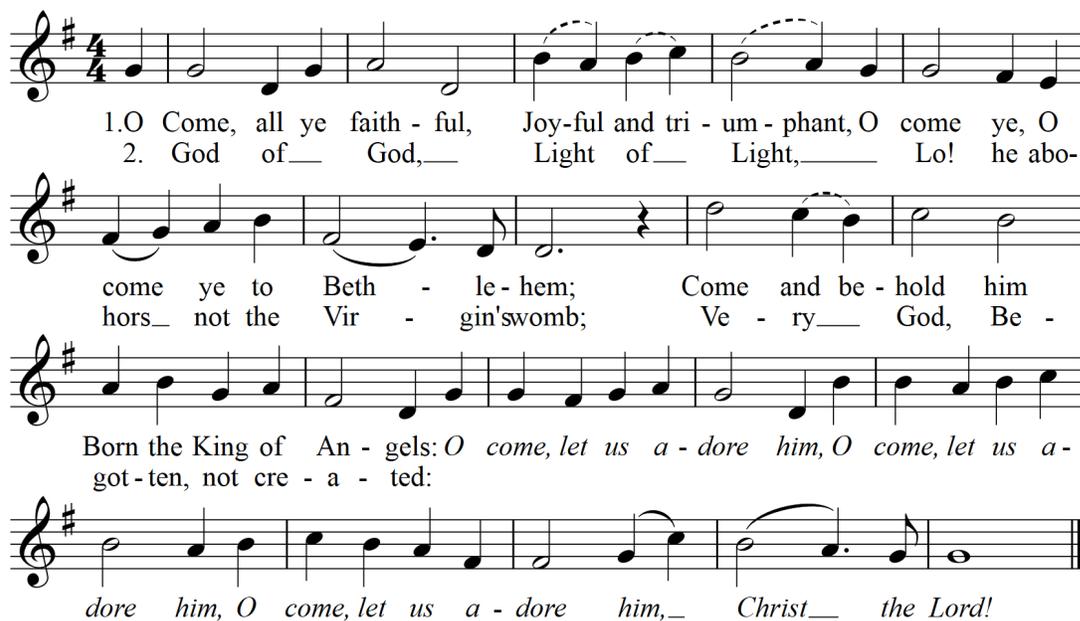
He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will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

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*All stand and sing.*

HYMN



1. O Come, all ye faith-ful, Joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O come ye, O  
 2. God of God, Light of Light, Lo! he abo-  
 come ye to Beth-le-hem; Come and be-hold him  
 hors-not the Vir-gin'swomb; Ve-ry God, Be-  
 Born the King of An-gels: O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-  
 got-ten, not cre-a-ted:  
 dore him, O come, let us a-dore him, Christ the Lord!

3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
 Sing in exultation,  
 Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
 'Glory to God  
 In the highest.'  
 O come, let us adore him,  
 O come, let us adore him,  
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
 Born this happy morning,  
 Jesu, to thee be glory given;  
 Word of the Father,  
 Now in flesh appearing.  
 O come, let us adore him,  
 O come, let us adore him,  
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

*The congregation may be seated for the pastoral welcome. The offering will be received during the carol.  
Tonight's offering will benefit the Community Family Life Services.*

We invite you to give your offering online at [saintlukegive.us](http://saintlukegive.us)  
You may also mail your checks to:  
Saint Luke Lutheran Church  
9100 Colesville Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

## CAROL

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.  
He was with God in the beginning.  
In him was life, and that light was the light of men.  
The light shines in the darkness,  
but the darkness has not overcome it.

*In the Beginning Was the Word*  
Words: John 1:1-2, 4-5  
Music: Carson Cooman (b. 1982)

*Please stand.*

## CLOSING PRAYERS AND BLESSING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

May he who by his Incarnation, gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## HYMN

1. Hark! the he - rald an-gels sing\_ Glo-ry to the new-born King; Peace on earth and  
mer-cy mild, God and sin - ners re-con-ciled: Joy-ful all ye na-tions rise, -  
Join the tri-umph of the skies, With th'an-gel-ic host pro-claim, Christ is\_ born in  
Beth-le-hem. *Hark! the he-rald an-gels sing Glo-ry\_ to the new-born King.*

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel.

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"*

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King"*

*Hark! The herald angels sing  
Descant: David Willcocks*

## POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

## Community Family Life Services

Community Family Life Services is a faith-based non-profit organization serving low-income and homeless men, women, children, and families in the metro D.C. area for over thirty years. The agency facilitates personal growth, independence, and integration into a healthy community for their clients, regardless of their faith.

Through a Continuum of Care service delivery model, CFLS offers transitional housing for those who are homeless, emergency food and shelter to meet the most basic necessities of life, case management with individuals living with HIV or AIDS, development and job placement, support services, including life skill development, and substance abuse counseling, mentoring, and parenting workshops. Through these programs, they empower clients to change their lives over the long-term. The Executive Director of CFLS is Ashley McSwain. For more information, visit [www.cflsdc.org](http://www.cflsdc.org).

### Choristers

Hannah Montgomery  
Liam Gordon  
Tessa Shugert  
Ronan Shugert

Liliana Larson  
Caitlin Piacsek  
Zeke Piacsek

### Schola Cantorum

#### Soprano

Delancy Allred  
Emi Carlsperger  
Margaret Neily  
Becky Unkenholz

#### Alto

Andi Carlson  
Tacy Downing  
Jenny Farrar

#### Tenor

Ellen Miller  
Ralph Watkins  
Henry Woehlke

#### Bass

Ron Hebensperger  
William Leader  
William Schultz  
Willard Unkenholz

### Officiant

The Rev. Connie A. Miller

### Saint Luke Choirs

Dr. Alain Truche

### Organist

Grace Oh

### Musicians

Brock Butchko, *percussion*  
Anna Kelleher, *violin*

## Lectors

### The First Lesson

Liliana Larson, *members of the Choristers*

### The Second Lesson

Ronan Shugert, *member of the Choristers*

### The Third Lesson

Becky Unkensholz, *member of the Schola Cantorum*

### The Fourth Lesson

Ralph Watkins, *member of the Schola Cantorum*

### The Fifth Lesson

Annika Dodrill, *Sunday School Teacher*

### The Sixth Lesson

Melissa Groen, *Director of Children's Ministries*

### The Seventh Lesson

Matt Shugert, *President of the Saint Luke Council*

### The Eighth Lesson

Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music*

### The Ninth Lesson

The Rev. Connie A. Miller, *Senior Pastor*

## Crucifer

Bill Leader

\*Cover Photo: The Nativity by the Master of Louvre (Latter 15th Century)

## CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT SAINT LUKE

### Christmas Eve –Saturday, December 24

4:00 p.m. Children's Creche (Christmas Story) Service

5:30 p.m. Children's Creche (Christmas Story) Service

8:00 p.m. Festival Holy Communion

10:00 p.m. Festival Holy Communion

12:00 a.m. Misa Navidad (Worship in Spanish) Online Only

### Christmas Day - Sunday, December 25

10:00 a.m. Festival Worship Holy Communion

### New Years Eve - Saturday, December 31

8:00 p.m. New Years Eve Service

### Holy Name of Jesus - Sunday, January 1

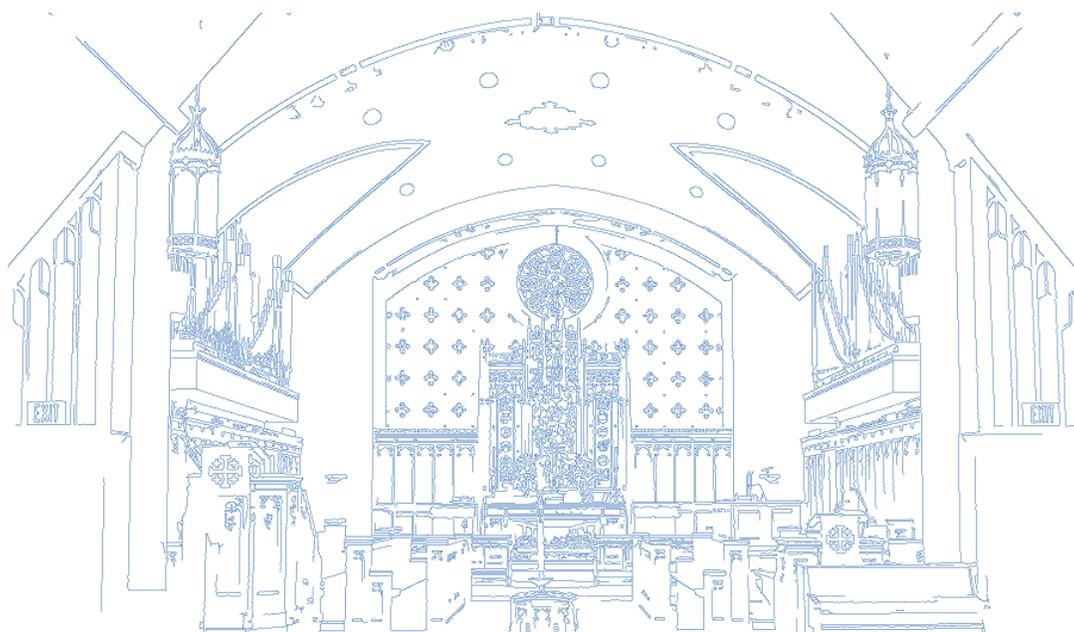
10:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (one service only)

**Saint Luke Lutheran Church & School**

9100 Colesville Road

Silver Spring, MD 20910

[www.saintluke.us](http://www.saintluke.us)



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