

Festival
of LESSONS
and CAROLS

Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church
Maineville, Ohio
December 24, 2022

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Dear people of God, in this Christmas season, it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us—the Christ Child lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy child.

But first, let us pray for people all over the world who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ and who would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of our community and for all those in our own congregation.

Silent prayer

And, because this would please our Lord, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, and the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, those who do not love him, and those who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Silent prayer

Finally, let us remember with thanksgiving before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another.

Silent prayer

To sum up all these petitions, let us pray as Christ himself taught us.

The Lord's Prayer (*sung to Away in a Manger*)

**Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone;
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.**

**The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver your children most dear.**

**For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign.
And yours is the power; all things you maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

GENESIS 3:8-15

After the fall into sin God gives the first promise of a Savior.

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."

M: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

C: We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has
2 What the fa - thers most de - sired, What the
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's
4 Wel - come, O my Sav - ior, now! Joy - ful,
5 Crush for me the ser - pent's head That, set



tru - ly kept his word And at last to
proph - ets' heart in - spired, What they longed for
help - er, Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold
Lord, to you I bow. Come in - to my
free from doubt and dread, I may cling to



us did send Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
man - y a year Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
race be - hold— Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
heart, I pray; Oh, pre - pare your - self a way.
you in faith, Safe - ly kept through life and death,

6 And, when you shall come again
As a glorious king to reign,
I with joy may see your face,
Freely ransomed by your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND (77 77) *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, Wittenberg, 1524.

SECOND LESSON

GENESIS 22:15-18

Abraham was obedient to the command of God and had not withheld his son Isaac. Abraham had trusted that God would keep his promise to send a Savior through Isaac's offspring, even if that meant that God would raise Isaac from the dead. In his grace God renews his promise to Abraham to give him a descendant who would bless all nations.

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."

M: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

C: **We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed
 3 This is he whom heav'n - taught sing - ers
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him,
 5 Christ, to you, with God the Fa - ther,



Ere the worlds be - gan to be, He is
 When the vir - gin, full of grace, By the
 Sang of old with one ac - cord; Whom the
 An - gel hosts his prais - es sing, Pow'rs, do -
 And the Spir - it cease - less - ly Hymn and



Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the
 Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bore the Sav - ior
 Scrip - tures of the proph - ets Prom - ised in their
 min - ions bow be - fore him And ex - tol our
 chant and high thanks - giv - ing And un - end - ing



end - ing he, Of the things that are, that
 of - our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
 faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -
 God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall
 deem - er, First re - vealed his sa - cred
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert
 min - ion And e - ter - nal vic - to -



see Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 face Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Lord Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ring Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ry Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

THIRD LESSON

ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7

Isaiah the prophet foretells the coming of the Savior, who will bring light and peace.

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.

M: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

C: **We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious
2 To us a child of hope is born, To us a
3 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -
4 His right - eous gov - ern - ment and pow'r Shall o - ver
5 Lord Je - sus, reign in us, we pray, And make us



light have seen; The light has shone on them who long In
son is giv'n, And on his shoul - ders ev - er rests All
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The
all ex - tend; On judg - ment and on jus - tice based, His
yours a - lone, For you are with the Fa - ther and The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.
reign shall have no end, His reign shall have no end.
Spir - it ev - er one, The Spir - it ev - er one.

FOURTH LESSON

ISAIAH 11:1-9

From the family tree of Jesse, father of King David, another King would come to judge the world with righteousness and establish an everlasting kingdom.

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. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

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.

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C: **We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

FIFTH LESSON

ISAIAH 60:1-6

The prophet foretold that one born king of the Jews would draw kings from distant nations to the light of his glory.

“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

“Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm. Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

M: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

C: **We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**



1 A - rise and shine in splen - dor; Let night to day sur -
2 See earth in dark - ness ly - ing, The hea - then na - tions
3 Lift up your eyes in won - der— See, na - tions gath - er
4 Your heart will leap for glad - ness When from the realms of



ren - der. Your light is draw - ing near. A - bove,
dy - ing In hope - less gloom and night. To you
yon - der From sin to be set free. The world
sad - ness They come from near and far. Your eyes



the day is beam - ing, In match - less beau - ty
the Lord of heav - en— Your life, your hope—has
has heard your sto - ry; Your sons come to your
will wake from slum - ber As peo - ple with - out



gleam - ing; The glo - ry of the Lord is here.
giv - en Great glo - ry, hon - or, and de - light.
glo - ry, And daugh - ters haste your light to see.
num - ber Re - joice to see the Morn - ing Star.

Text: Martin Opitz, 1597–1639, abr.; tr. Gerhard Gieschen, b. 1899–1987, alt.

Tune: EPIPHANY (776 778) Bruce R. Backer, b. 1929. © 1993 Bruce R. Backer. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

SIXTH LESSON

LUKE 2:1-7

Luke records the birth of our Savior.

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.

M: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

C: **We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

SEVENTH LESSON

LUKE 2:8-20

An angel announces the birth of Christ to shepherds near Bethlehem. The angels praise God for his gift of peace, and the shepherds tell of the Savior they have seen.

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. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

M: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

C: **We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with you there.

EIGHTH LESSON

MATTHEW 2:1-12

The Magi worship the newborn King.

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. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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C: **We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

NINTH LESSON

JOHN 1:1-14

Saint John unfolds the mystery of our Lord's 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.

M: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

C: **We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

The Hymn Response: *Sing to the tune of (CW 53)*

**Create my nature pure within And make my heart averse to sin;
Let Your good Spirit not depart, Nor hide Your presence from my heart.**

**I cannot live without Your Light, Cast out and banished from Your sight;
Your holy joys, my God, restore And guard me that I fall no more.**

**Oh, may Your love inspire my tongue! Salvation shall be all my song;
And all my powers shall join to bless The Lord, my strength and
righteousness.**

Stand

CLOSING PRAYER

M: O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ, grant that as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, so we 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 forever.

C: *(spoken)* **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

M: Jesus is the light of the world.

C: **The light no darkness can overcome.**

M: The light that gives life has come.

C: **May he shine in our hearts and lives.**

M: The blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the Son, + and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and remain with you always.

C: *(spoken)* **Amen.**

Closing Carol

**Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar; Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**