



# Lessons & Carols!

St. Luke Lutheran Church • 8:30AM • December 27, 2020

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## Prelude

Gathering Hymn: #298 *"The Bells of Christmas"*

Verse 1: The bells of Christmas chime once more; the heav'nly guest is at the door.  
He comes to earthly dwellings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.

Verse 2: This world, though wide and far outspread, could scarcely find for you a bed.  
Your cradle was a manger stall, no pearl nor silk nor kingly hall.

Verse 3: Now let us go with quiet mind, the swaddled babe with shepherds find,  
to gaze on him who gladdens them, the loveliest flow'r of Jesse's stem.

Verse 4: Oh, join with me, in gladness sing, to keep our Christmas with our king,  
until our song, from loving souls, like rushing mighty water rolls!

Verse 5: O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song, O Dayspring bright, awaited long,  
O Son of Man, incarnate Word, great David's Son, great David's Lord!

Verse 6: Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest, and keep your Christmas in our breast;  
then David's harp-string, hushed so long, shall swell our jubilee of song.

## Dialogue

L: Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world. C: **By day and night he shines for all to see.**

L: Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

C: **that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**

L: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

C: **so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.**

L: Jesus is the light of the world. C: **Jesus is the light of our lives.**

L: Sing to God a new song! C: **A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.**

## Opening Prayer

L: The Lord be with you. C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven & earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness — a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder & joy of his presence in the world & in our hearts. C: **Amen.**

## Lessons and Carols

**First Reading:** Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, <sup>2</sup>the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. <sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. <sup>5</sup>God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. <sup>14</sup>And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, <sup>15</sup>and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. <sup>16</sup>God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. <sup>17</sup>God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, <sup>18</sup>to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

**Hymn: #272** *"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"*

**Verse 1:** Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming As men of old have sung. It came, a flower bright, Amid the cold of winter. When half-gone was the night.

**Verse 2:** Isaiah had foretold it, The Rose I have in mind: With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright, She bore to men a Savior, When half-gone was the night.

**Verse 3:** This Flower, whose fragrance tender, With sweetness fills the air, Dispels with glorious splendor, The darkness everywhere. True man, yet very God, From sin & death He saves us, And lightens every load.

**Verse 4:** O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe; O Savior, king of glory, who dost our weakness now know: bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven and into endless day.

**Second Reading:** Micah 5:2-5a <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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; <sup>5</sup>and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

**Hymn: #292** *"Love Has Come"*

**Verse 1:** Love has come a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

**Verse 2:** Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers: Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

**Verse 3:** Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

**Third Reading:** Luke 1:26-35, 38 <sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>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.

**Hymn: #300** *"The First Noel"*

**Verse 1:** The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

**Refrain:** Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

**Verse 2:** They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

**Verse 3:** And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

**Verse 4:** This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]

**Verse 5:** Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee,  
and offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense. [Refrain]

**Fourth Reading:** Matthew 1:18-25 <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace,

planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

**Hymn: #276** *"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"*

**Verse 1: Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing.**

**Christ the child is Lord of all. Swiftly winging angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!**

**Verse 2: Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!**

**Fifth Reading:** Luke 2:8-20 <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" <sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Hymn: #269** *"Once in Royal David's City"*

**Verse 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.**

**Verse 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 Savior holy.**

**Verse 3: And thro' all his wondrous childhood he would honor and obey, love and watch the lowly  
maiden in whose gentle arms he lay: Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as he.**

**Verse 4: And our eyes at last shall see him, thro' his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heav'n above: and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

**Verse 5: 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.**

**Sixth Reading:** Matthew 2:1-11 <sup>2</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>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." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>'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.'" <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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." <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>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.

**Hymn: #282** *"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

**Verse 1: It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.**

**Verse 2:** Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains,  
they bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

**Verse 3:** And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow, look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

**Verse 4:** For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come  
the time foretold when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

**Seventh Reading:** John 1:1-14 <sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>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.

**Hymn: #296** *"What Child Is This"*

**Verse 1:** What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping?

**Chorus:** This, this is Christ, the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary!

**Verse 2:** Why lies He in such mean estate, Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here The silent Word is pleading. [Chorus]

**Verse 3:** So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, Come, peasant, king to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him. [Chorus]

**Responsive Prayer:**

L: It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

**C: Your Word, Jesus, is truth.**

L: In his light, draw all to the manger

**C: to gather in wonder with the shepherds.**

L: In his light, draw all to the manger

**C: to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.**

L: In his light, draw all to the manger

**C: to sing for joy with the angels.**

L: In the brightness of his life

**C: cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.**

L: It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

**C: In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.**

**Sharing the Peace:** L: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: And also with you.

**Offertory Prayer:**

P: Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. C: **Amen.**

**Celebration of Holy Communion**

## The Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you      **C: And also with you**  
L: Lift up your hearts.      **C: We lift them to the Lord.**  
L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.      **C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## Salutation

**Hymn: #289** *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

**Verse 1:** Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.

**Refrain:** Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Verse 2:** Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear? *[Refrain]*

**Verse 3:** Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing.  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *[Refrain]*

**Verse 4:** See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above.  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love. *[Refrain]*

## Words of Institution

**Lord's Prayer:** 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.

## Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. 2X

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

**Communion Prayer:** Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.      **C: Amen.**

## Blessing

L: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

**C: Praise God, all creatures here below!**

L: You are the shepherds telling the story.

**C: We tell it in the streets and across the land.**

L: You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

**C: We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.**

L: You are the angels announcing peace.

**C: We live with joy and go now in peace**

L: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now & forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Sending Hymn: #288** *"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"*

**Verse 1:** Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ was born today. Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

**Verse 2:** Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

**Verse 3:** Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## Postlude