



St. John's Lutheran Church

Rooted and Growing: In Christ. In Community.



Welcome to Worship!

One of the great traditions of the Christmas season is the Festival of Lessons and Carols, sung by church choirs large and small in every part of the English-speaking world. The model upon which this nativity event is based is the service which takes place annually on Christmas Eve at 3:00 p.m. at King's College in Cambridge, England. It has been a tradition at King's since 1918.

As the creator of Lessons and Carols pointed out in the first printed program, the “pattern and strength” of the service resides with the lessons themselves, not with the music. “The main theme of the service is the development, through the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, of the loving purpose of God in sending his Son. The carols and hymns are simply here to guide us in our response to the Word of God’s promise.”

Worship Notes

It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God’s Word will fill your heart with the peace that only God can offer and the joy we have in knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior from sin.

If you need assistance with anything during worship—including large-print service folders and assisted listening devices—please ask one of our ushers. Restrooms are located at the far end of the entry area. Small children can be taken into the entry area, mother’s room (at the back of the church), or nursery (lower level of church) as needed during the worship service. Changing tables are available in the mother’s room and in the room adjacent to the nursery.

During the offering, all worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder or located online at www.sjtosa.org/Connect). Completed cards may be placed in the baskets by the exit.

The church and school faculty and staff wish to express their thanks for the Christmas cards, gifts, and messages received during this season. Your expressions of love and gratitude are genuinely appreciated.

We wish you a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year. Please return to worship with us again soon!

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols

December 24, 2022

During the singing of the processional hymn, the congregation is asked to rise and turn to the back of the church to visually follow the entrance of the cross on its way to the chancel.

Processional Hymn

Stanza 1: soloist; stanzas 2-4: congregation

Once in Royal David's City

Christian Worship 343



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
3 And our eyes at last shall see him through his own re -
4 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble with the ox - en



cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
deem - ing love, for that child, so dear and gen - tle, is our
stand - ing by shall we see him, but in heav - en, set at



man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and mean and
Lord in heav'n a - bove, and he leads his chil - dren
God's right hand on high. Then like stars his chil - dren



mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
on to the place where he is gone.
crowned, all in white, his praise will sound.

Text and tune: Public domain

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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 would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of this city and for all those in our own congregation.

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, who do not love him, and who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Finally, let us remember 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.

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

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Be seated

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8–15

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

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all livestock and all 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."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

Adult Choir

This is the Truth Sent from Above

arranged by Adam Sipe

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, that God at first did man create
the next thing, which to you I 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.

And 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
for so a promise soon did run that he'd redeem us by his Son.

Text: Public domain.

Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15–18

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

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

Savior of the Nations, Come (sts. 1, 2, 4)

Christian Worship 301

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2–7

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

For as in the day of Midian’s defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

Every warrior’s boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

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 greatness 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

The People Who in Darkness Walked (sts. 1-4)

Christian Worship 381

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:1–10

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

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 might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and 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 cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.
They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.
In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him,
and his resting place will be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

Adult Choir

A Shoot Shall Come Forth

by Richard Horn

A shoot shall come forth out of Jesse, and a bud shall grow out of its roots,
the spirit of life shall be with him, the spirit of wisdom and truth.

Then the lamb shall lie down with the leopard, and the lion eat straw with the ox,
for the hand of a child shall lead them, to the peaceable kingdom of God.

From out of the wells of salvation will he draw us the water of life;
his waist shall be girdled with justice, the heart of his heart shall be love.

He'll come from the end of his heaven, and the earth shall be torn from its place;
our lives shall be filled with his radiance, as floodwaters cover the sea.

Text: © 1992 Birnamwood Publications. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 709971

Fifth Lesson

Micah 5:2–4

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

Adult Choir

O Little Town of Bethlehem

arranged by Sally DeFord

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

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.

Text: Public domain

Sixth Lesson

Luke 1:26–38

The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed virgin Mary.

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.”

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (sts. 1, 2)

Christian Worship 328

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:1–7

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their 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 guest room available for them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

Adult Choir

All Praise to Thee

by Elaine Hagenberg

All praise to Thee, eternal God, who clothed in garb of flesh and blood,
dost take a manger for thy throne, while worlds on worlds are thine alone.
Alleluia.

Thou comest in the darksome night to make us children of the light,
to make us in the realms divine, like thine own angels, round Thee shine.
Alleluia.

A little child, thou art are our guest that weary ones in Thee may rest;
forlorn and lowly is thy birth that we may rise, to heaven from earth.
Alleluia.

Text: © 2015 Beckenhorst Press, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 709971

Eighth Lesson

Luke 2:8–18

The shepherds go to the manger.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, 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 heaven, and on earth peace to those 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

Adult Choir

While Shepherds Watched

by Hugo Jungst

While by my sheep I watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright;
how great my joy, great my joy! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

There shall be born, so he did say, in Bethlehem a child today:
how great my joy, great my joy! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

There shall he lie, in manger mean, who shall redeem the world from sin:
how great my joy, great my joy! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

Lord, evermore to me be nigh, then shall my heart be filled with joy!
how great my joy, great my joy! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

Text: Public domain

Ninth Lesson

Matthew 2:1–11

The wise men are led to Jesus by the star.

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 when it rose 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 Messiah 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 shepherd 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 search carefully 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 when it rose 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, frankincense and myrrh.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

As with Gladness Men of Old (sts. 1, 3, 4)

Christian Worship 372

Please stand

The last lesson will be read in the nave, to symbolize the truth that the Word made flesh now dwells among us. Please join in singing the indicated stanzas during the processional to and recessional from the nave.



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
3 This is he whom seers and sa - ges sang of old with
gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
he the source, the end - ing he,
prom - ised in their faith - ful word.
of the things that are, that have been,
Now he shines, the long - ex - spect - ed;
and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
let cre - a - tion praise its Lord ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text and tune: Public domain

Tenth Lesson

John 1:1–14

The apostle John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone 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 did receive 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 Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Let the heights of heav'n adore him, angel hosts his praises sing,
pow'rs, dominions bow before him and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring evermore and evermore.**

**Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unending praises be,
honor, glory, and dominion and eternal victory evermore and evermore.**

Be seated

Christmas Message

Please stand

Prayer of the Church

The minister says the Prayer of the Church

Be seated

Offering

Members of St. John's give offerings to support the Lord's work in our community and around the world. Visitors are welcome but not obligated to give an offering. All worshipers are asked to fill out a Connection Card (included with the service folder). Physical offerings and Connection Cards can be left in the basket on your way out of church. To submit your offering electronically or fill out a Connection Card online, scan the QR code or visit www.sjtosa.org/offering.



Please stand

May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And may the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the Son † and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and remain with you always.

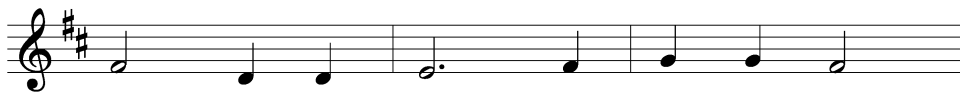
Amen.

During the recessional, the congregation is asked to remain standing to sing and turn to visually follow the cross as it leaves the sanctuary. Please be seated at the completion of the hymn to await dismissal by the ushers.

Recessional Hymn

O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is (sts. 1, 5)

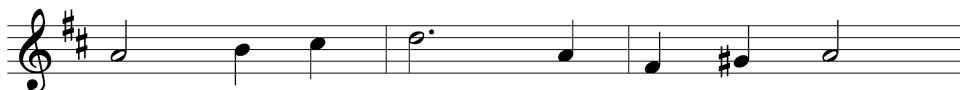
Christian Worship 342



1 O Je - sus Christ, your man - ger is
5 The world may hold her wealth and gold;



my par - a - dise at which I am re - clin - ing.
but you, my heart, keep Christ as your true trea - sure.



For there, O Lord, we find the Word
To him hold fast un - til at last



made flesh for us— your grace is bright - ly shin - ing.
a crown is yours and hon - or in full mea - sure.

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 709971. Tune: Public domain

Postlude

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2022 Concordia Publishing House.

Serving at Worship

Preacher

Pastor Eric Schroeder

Presiding Minister

Pastor Joel Leyrer

Lectors

Pastor Joel Schwartz

Pastor Joshua Yu

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary student Zach Kopplin

Martin Luther College student Jacob Leyrer

Musicians

Lynn Kozlowski, organ

Hannah Braun, violin

Carrie Tanner & Mandy Treder, vocals

Adult Choir Director

Adam Sipe

The Mission of our Church

As God's people gathered together at St. John's, we live to declare the praises of our Savior God who called us out of the darkness of sin into the light of his grace.

As 21st century disciples of Jesus, we reflect the light of God's love by:



Making worship of our Savior the top priority in our lives



Growing in our faith through daily contact with God's Word



Fostering Christian friendships for mutual encouragement and support



Using our unique gifts to glorify God and serve God's people



Sharing the good news of God's forgiving love with others

Worship Services

Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Worship in Chinese

Saturdays at 7:00 p.m.

Pastors

Pastor Joel Leyrer
joel.leyrer@sjtosa.org

Pastor Eric Schroeder
eric.schroeder@sjtosa.org

Pastor Joel Schwartz
joel.schwartz@sjtosa.org

Chinese Outreach

Pastor

Pastor Joshua Yu
joshua.yu@sjtosa.org

School Principal

Mr. Dan Markgraf
dan.markgraf@sjtosa.org

Church Office

7809 Harwood Ave
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 258-7831
church@sjtosa.org

School Office

1278 Dewey Avenue
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 258-4214
school@sjtosa.org

sjtosa.org