

Advent Worship
Lessons & Carols
December 22, 2024
9:00am



Good Shepherd
LUTHERAN CHURCH
651-451-6225

CAROL *"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"*

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art, dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king; born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

SECOND LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Becca Kelly

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be vast authority and endless peace for David's throne and for his kingdom, establishing and sustaining it with justice and righteousness now and forever.

The zeal of the Lord of heavenly forces will do this.

REFLECTION QUESTION

In what areas of your life do you need the light of Christ to shine? How can the promises of peace, justice, and righteousness in this passage inspire you to live with hope and bring those qualities into the world around you?

Silence for Reflection

PRAYER

C. God, you are always with us. May we always trust in your presence and share it with those around us. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC *"Emmanuel God With Us"*

Valerie Drewes

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 11:1-10

Greg Rettinger

L. A shoot will grow up from the stump of Jesse; a branch will sprout from his roots.

The Lord's spirit will rest upon him,

**C. a spirit of wisdom and understanding,
a spirit of planning and strength,
a spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord.**

L. He will delight in fearing the Lord.

He won't judge by appearances,

C. nor decide by hearsay.

L. He will judge the needy with righteousness,

C. and decide with equity for those who suffer in the land.

L. He will strike the violent with the rod of his mouth;

C. by the breath of his lips he will kill the wicked.

L. Righteousness will be the belt around his hips,

C. and faithfulness the belt around his waist.

L. The wolf will live with the lamb,

**C. and the leopard will lie down with the young goat;
the calf and the young lion will feed together,
and a little child will lead them.**

- L. The cow and the bear will graze.
- C. Their young will lie down together, and a lion will eat straw like an ox.**
- L. A nursing child will play over the snake's hole;
- C. toddlers will reach right over the serpent's den.**
- L. They won't harm or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain.
- C. The earth will surely be filled with the knowledge of the Lord, just as the water covers the sea.**
- L. On that day, the root of Jesse will stand as a signal to the peoples.
The nations will seek him out, and his dwelling will be glorious.

REFLECTION QUESTION

What does the picture of peace and justice in this passage teach you about how God wants you to live? What is one way you can bring more kindness, fairness, and peace into your relationships this week?

Silence for Reflection

PRAYER

C. Lord, we wait for the day of your peace. May we help to bring this peace in our families, our communities and our world. Amen.

CAROL *"Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.

This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord, whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word; now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord evermore and evermore.

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.

FOURTH LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 38

Traci Norum

When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom." Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had sexual relations with a man?" The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son. Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her.

REFLECTION QUESTION

How do you respond to God's call in your life, especially when it feels unexpected or challenging? What can you learn from Mary's willingness to trust and say 'yes' to God's plan?

Silence for Reflection

PRAYER

C. Lord, you asked Joseph and Mary to trust in you. May we come to share in their trust and always rely on you. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC *"Ave Maria"* Emily Lee

FIFTH LESSON Luke 2:1,3-7 Solveig Bentson

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists.

Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

REFLECTION QUESTION

What does the humble birth of Jesus in a manger teach you about God's presence in the everyday, ordinary moments of life? What is a time that you have experienced God in an unexpected person or place or activity?

Silence for Reflection

PRAYER

C. Lord, you came to us in humility and vulnerability. May we always show loving care to those around us, especially those in the most need. Amen.

CAROL *"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"*

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!

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!

SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:8-16 Matt Walkowiak

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.

REFLECTION QUESTION

What does the angel's message to the shepherds teach you about how you can share the Good News of Jesus with others? How can you, like the shepherds, respond with joy and urgency to God's invitation to connect with Jesus?

Silence for Reflection

PRAYER

C. Lord, just as the angels brought glad tidings and urged us not to fear, help us to trust in Your message and courageously share the Good News with all we meet. Amen.

CAROL *"Once in Royal David's City"*

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.

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 meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

SEVENTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-3, 7-12

Nick Bliiek

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him." When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him.

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him."

When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

REFLECTION QUESTION

How do you respond when you encounter God's guidance or unexpected signs in your life? Like the wise men, are you willing to seek Jesus with sincerity and humility, even if it requires changing your plans or direction?

Silence for Reflection

PRAYER

C. Lord, you are the giver of all good gifts. May we always remember to share our gifts with others for the glory of your name. Amen.

OFFERING RECEIVED *"What Child is This"* Valerie Drewes/Krista Walkowiak

EIGHTH LESSON John 1:1-5 Jen Baglio

L. In the beginning was the Word
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.

C. The Word was with God in the beginning.

L. Everything came into being through the Word,
and without the Word
nothing came into being.

**C. What came into being
through the Word was life,
and the life was the light for all people.**

L. The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

REFLECTION QUESTION

What does it mean for you that Jesus is the 'Light' and the source of life? How can you live more like Him and share His light with others?

Silence for Reflection

PRAYER

C. God of power and might, you are beyond all time and space. May we never fail to recognize your majesty and give praise to you in all we do. Amen.

CAROL *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strain.

Refrain: **Glo - - ria in excelsis Deo; Glo - - ria in excelsis Deo.**

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Refrain

NINTH LESSON Matthew 28:16-20 Nick Juarez

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him, but some doubted. Jesus came near and spoke to them, "I've received all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age."

REFLECTION QUESTION

How does Jesus' command to 'go and make disciples' challenge you to live out your faith? In what ways can you share His love and message with others, both in your words and actions? Who is someone specific you need to share God's message of love with this week?

Silence for Reflection

PRAYER

C. Lord, you call us to be your witnesses to the ends of the earth. Fill our words with power that we may proclaim your good news and draw all people to you. Amen.

CAROL *"Go Tell It On the Mountain"*

Refrain: **Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

P. It has been done!

The Good News has been shared!

**C. A young maiden will bear a child,
and she will call him Jesus.**

P. But that is the beginning of the story,
a story that has not yet ended.

**C. A story that includes us,
a story of which we are a part.**

L. Go tell of the Hope that is born among us this Christmas.
Go share the Love of the season with the world.
Go to be agents of Peace in times of trouble.
Go sing songs of deep abiding Joy.

**C. We will tell of what we have seen and heard.
The Good News of great joy is for all people.
Amen.**

POSTLUDE

This week please pray for:

Members:

Traci Norum and Family grieving the death of her mom, Kathy Ahrendt
Anne Kelly and baby Auggie, in NICU after early delivery
Millie Mlinarevich, following up on CT scan results

Friends and Family of Members:

Brooke, pneumonia, niece of Millie Mlinarevich
Marie, recovering from surgery, sister-in-law of Millie Mlinarevich

