



December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve Worship 4:00 PM, 7:00 PM

Candlelight Lessons & Carols

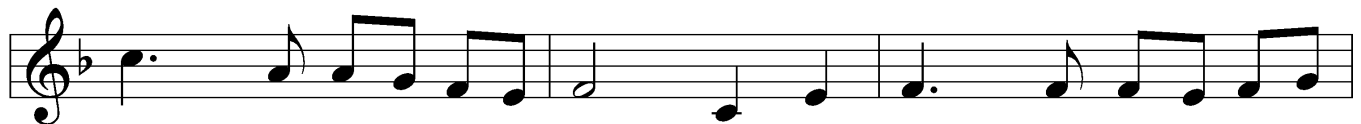
Carols by Request (30 minutes prior to the service)

Opening Hymn: Once in Royal David's City

LSB 376 sts. 1-2, 4-5



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is  
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His  
5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a  
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and  
ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y  
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the  
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He  
heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.  
stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-95, alt.  
Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-76  
Text and tune: Public domain

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in Christ, at this Christmas-tide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the account of the loving purposes of God from the days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the Church He came to build, and especially in this our congregation.

And because it would rejoice His heart, let us remember, in His name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that the multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one forevermore.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the Throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

**C** 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.

# Carol: O Come, All Ye Faithful

LSB 379



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to Thee — be — glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God — In — the — high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

## *Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.  
Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786  
Text and tune: Public domain

# First Lesson - God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

*Genesis 3:8-15*

<sup>8</sup>They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

<sup>11</sup>He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,  
cursed are you above all livestock  
and above all beasts of the field;  
on your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel."

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

# Carol: Joy to the World

LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748  
 Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Second Lesson - Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

# Carol: 359 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

LSB 359



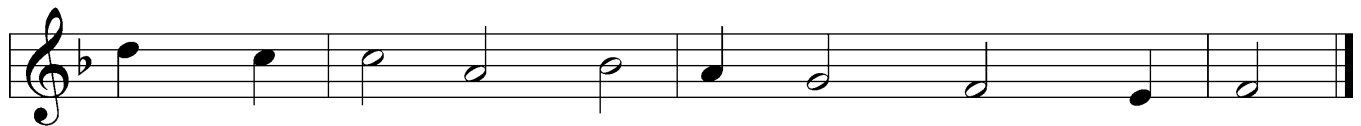
1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath  
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in  
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the  
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have  
mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er  
air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -  
woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the  
kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to  
where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and  
know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.  
us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.  
death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

Text (sts. 1-2): tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, alt.; (sts. 1-2, 4): German, 16th cent.; (st. 3): Friedrich L. C. Layriz, 1808-59; (st. 3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845-1925; (st. 4): tr. John C. Mattes, 1876-1948  
Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln  
Text and tune: Public domain



## Third Lesson - The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

*Isaiah 11:1-9*

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;  
and a little child shall lead them.

<sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,  
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

<sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

# Carol: 342 What Hope! An Eden Prophesied

LSB 342



1 What hope! An E - den proph-e - sied Where tame live with the wild;  
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da-vid's line,  
3 As ban - ner of God's love un-furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,  
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!  
A Prince of Peace in Beth-le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.  
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.  
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth

Text: © 1998 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110004522

Tune: Public domain

## Fourth Lesson - The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

*Micah 5:2-4*

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler 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 given birth;  
then the rest of his brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

# Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB 361



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
While mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.  
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.  
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!  
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–93  
Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Fifth Lesson - The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

*Luke 1:26-38*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name 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 father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.”

<sup>38</sup>And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Carol: 364 Away in a Manger

LSB 364



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 Thee 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 sky — looked down where He lay,  
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is night.  
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1–2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.  
Tune: James R. Murray, 1841–1905  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Sixth Lesson - St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

*Matthew 1:18-25*

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

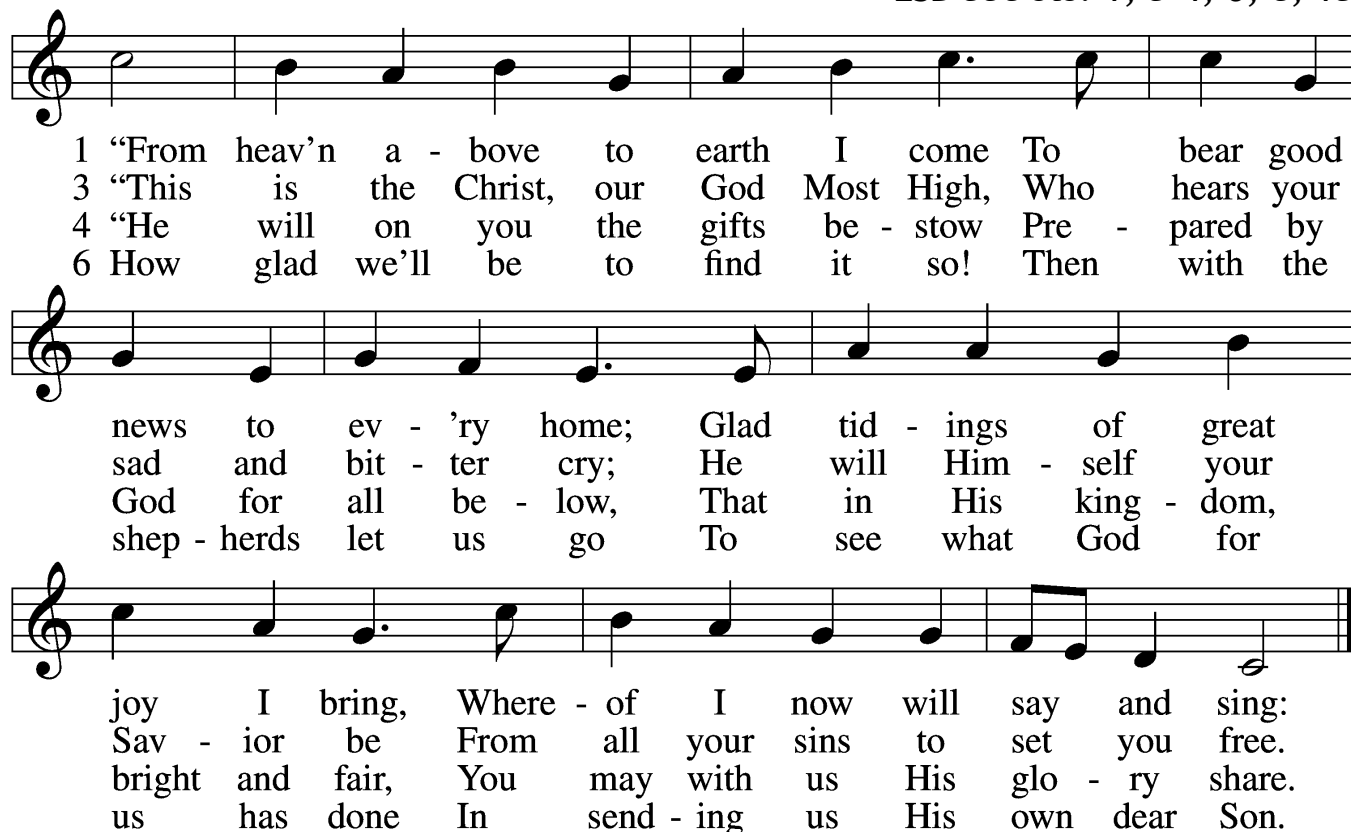
(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

# Carol: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

LSB 358 sts. 1, 3-4, 6, 8, 13



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good  
 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your  
 4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by  
 6 How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the  
 news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great  
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your  
 God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,  
 shep - herds let us go To see what God for  
 joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:  
 Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.  
 bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.  
 us has done In send - ing us His own dear Son.

8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,  
 Through whom the sinful world is blest!  
 You came to share my misery  
 That You might share Your joy with me.

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
 Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
 A quiet chamber set apart  
 For You to dwell within my heart.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
 Tune: Geistliche Lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valtin Schumann  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Seventh Lesson - St. Luke tell of the birth of Jesus

*Luke 2:1-20;*

<sup>1</sup>And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. <sup>2</sup>(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) <sup>5</sup>To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. <sup>6</sup>And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. <sup>7</sup>And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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,

And on earth peace, Good will toward men.

<sup>15</sup>And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. <sup>16</sup>And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup>But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

# Carol: 368 Angels We Have Heard on High

LSB 368



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav' - n - ly song?  
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

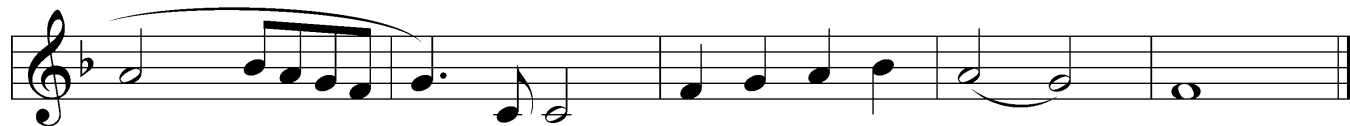
*Refrain*



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - -



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.  
Text and tune: French  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Eighth Lesson - The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus.

Matthew 2:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.””



<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” <sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

## Carol: 377 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

LSB 377



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris - tians sing To hear the news the  
 2 Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our Re - deem - er  
 3 When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then life and health come  
 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, Which made the an - gels



an - gels bring, On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing To  
 made us glad, Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since  
 in its place, When sin de - parts be - fore His grace, Then  
 sing this night, All out of dark - ness we have light, Which



hear the news the an - gels bring, News of great joy, news of great  
 our Re - deem - er made us glad, When from our sin He set us  
 life and health come in its place; An - gels and men with joy may  
 made the an - gels sing this night: “Glo - ry to God and peace to



mirth, News of our mer - ci - ful King's birth.  
 free, All for to gain our lib - er - ty?  
 sing, All for to see the new - born King.  
 men Now and for - ev - er - more. A - men.”

*Stand*

## **Ninth Lesson - St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.**

*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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has 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 bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about 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 was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Sit*

# Carol: 360 All My Heart Again Rejoices

LSB 360



1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es As I hear Far and near  
2 Hear! The Con - quer - or has spo - ken: "Now the foe, Sin and woe,  
3 Should we fear our God's dis - plea - sure, Who, to save, Free - ly gave  
4 See the Lamb, our sin once tak - ing To the cross, Suf - f'ring loss,



Sweet - est an - gel voic - es. "Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing  
Death and hell are bro - ken!" God is man, man to de - liv - er,  
His most pre - cious trea - sure? To re - deem us He has giv - en  
Full a - tone - ment mak - ing. For our life His own He ten - ders,



Till the air Ev - 'ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.  
And the Son Now is one With our blood for - ev - er.  
His own Son From the throne Of His might in heav - en.  
And His grace All our race Fit for glo - ry ren - ders.

5 Softly from His lowly manger  
Jesus calls  
One and all,  
"You are safe from danger.  
Children, from the sins that grieve you  
You are freed;  
All you need  
I will surely give you."

6 Come, then, banish all your sadness!  
One and all,  
Great and small,  
Come with songs of gladness.  
We shall live with Him forever  
There on high  
In that joy  
Which will vanish never.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

## Rev. Philip Zielinski

*Stand*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with your spirit.

## Collects for Christmas Eve

**P** O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**P** O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**P** O Lord God, our heavenly Father, who of Your great goodness and mercy caused Your only-begotten Son to become incarnate that we might be redeemed from sin and everlasting death, enlighten our hearts that we may be truly thankful for His holy nativity, be comforted by His birth in all time of tribulation and temptation, and in the end be saved by His gracious incarnation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

**C** Amen.

## Choir: This Peaceful Night

*Pastor will light his candle from the center of the Advent Wreath—the “Christ Candle”—and then the light will be passed through the congregation by the ushers from the center aisle.*

***Please tip only the unlit candle.  
They remain lit until after the blessing.***

# Candlelight Carol: Silent Night

LSB 363

(v. 1, sing the language of your choice)



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,  
 all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly  
 Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy  
 peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820-85  
 Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787-1863  
 Text and tune: Public domain

1g Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
 Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
 Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.  
 Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
 Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,  
 Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

1s ¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!  
 Todo duerme en derredor.  
 Entre los astros que esparcen su luz,  
 bella anunciando al niño Jesús  
 brilla la estrella de paz,  
 brilla la estrella de paz.

## Blessing

**[P]** 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.

**[C]** Amen.

*Please extinguish your candle now.  
 Keep it upright until the wax is cool.*

# Recessional Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LSB 380



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in-car - nate De - i - ty!  
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

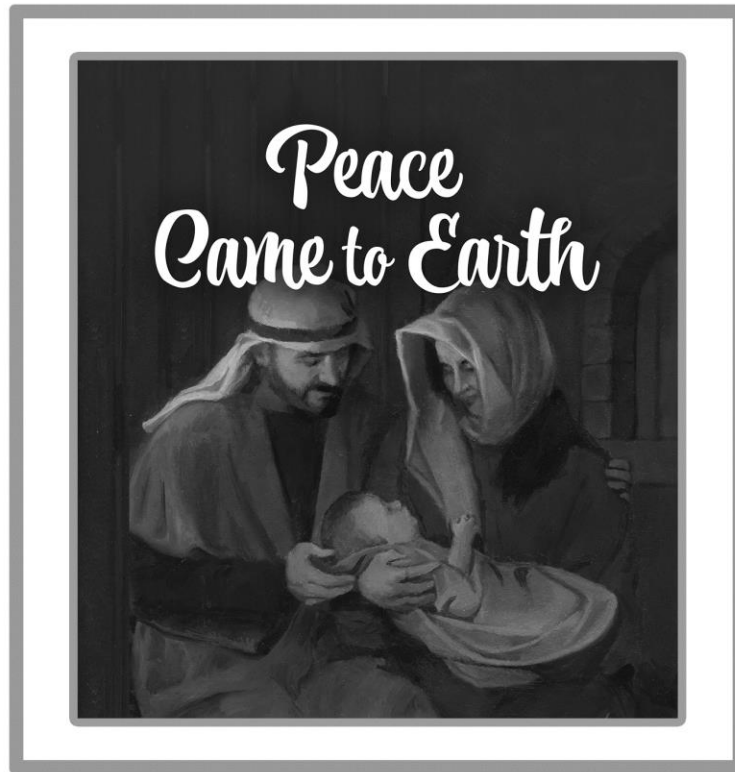
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.  
 Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

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*A blessed and merry Christmas to you! The joy which is yours this night comes as a gift of the Holy Spirit. It is a gift with which God promises to sustain you through all your days, whether filled with easy rejoicing or difficult trials. The gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation are given freely each Lord's Day here at St. Paul and they bring you peace as only Jesus can give, knowing that your sins are taken away, your guilt is lifted from you, and your shame is covered. You are invited to come and worship and receive these, the greatest gifts of Christmas. They are for you!*

*The celebration continues tomorrow at 10:00 AM as we gather and celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord as He comes to us through His Holy Supper in His Body and Blood.*



Wednesdays 11:30 am & 7:00pm (supper @ 6pm)  
in Advent December 6, 13, & 20

## Christmas in the Valley at St. Paul

Sunday, December 10

Sunday School Program 10:30am

Christmas Tea 2:00pm

Christmas Town Train, Hot Cocoa, Until 4:00pm  
Ornaments & Cookies to Decorate

**Christmas Eve 4:00pm & 7:00pm**

Candlelight Lessons and Carols 3:30pm & 6:30pm Carols by Request

**Christmas Day 10:00am**

www.spvc.org

# CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

## TO THE GLORY OF GOD

*by Kathleen Burns  
by David & Carol Hesketh  
By Larry Mitchell*

## IN HONOR OF:

*Our Parents ... Brian & Cherly Dearth  
Nieces & Nephews Carlson, Henry Silk ... Joyce Ellenberger  
Our Parents ... Jay & Sarah Moser  
Family & Friends ... Paula Pietch  
Lois Schultz ... Bob & Ethel Schiemann  
Dorothy Silk, Joyce Ellenberger ... Henry Silk*

## IN MEMORY OF:

*Our Loved Ones ... Heinrich & Irmgard Cordes  
Parents: Tom & Helen Smith and Siblings: Carl, Ruby & Lucille ... Evelyn Dearth  
My Parents: Walter & Magdalene Dill ... Walter Dill  
Perry Ellenberger, Gary Cebula, Mom & Dad McCormick ... Joyce Ellenberger  
Sam Jakabcic Sr. ... Sam Jakabcic  
William & Janet Kato ... Stephen & Colleen Kato  
Loving Grandparents Earl & Adiline Keller, My caring Father Hugh ... Rachel LaChance  
Dave Pastorius ... Jeanette Pastorius  
Family & Friends ... Rich & Jenny Proeschel  
Parents: Thomas & Ruth Rafter, Andrew & Margaret Hibler ... James & Jeanette Rafter  
Herb Rauhaus ... Marilyn Rauhaus & Family  
Roland & Elsie Ruhrkraut ... Chris & Cindy Ruhrkraut  
Patty Silk, John Silk ... Henry Silk  
Lois Weirauch, Pedro & Ramona Torres ... Zach Torres  
Loved Ones ... Sandy Turner*

## **Please Note:**

*Christmas plants may be taken home after the  
Christmas Day Morning Worship Service.  
Thank you.*