# A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

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### **GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Pastor

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### **GETTING STARTED**



Farence, by having your young emaner in worsing you are doing someting reary important. We know it's not always easy and can be tiring. We also know that kids aren't always perfect, even in church. Kids are going to make noise and we're ready for that. If you have to take them into the hallway, don't worry. If you scan the QR below and fill out the digital want to let them play in the nursery, feel free. We just want you to know that we value you and your children being here... in fact, Jesus said, "Let the ilititle abilidren segmentation make a prayer request, get more

study, or receive service opportunities.

### **CONNECT WITH US**

Scan the QR code and fill out the digital form to make a prayer request, get more information on classes, sign up for a Bible study, or receive service opportunities.



## **FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS**

Our worship this evening is an adaptation of "The Festival of Lessons and Carols" service traditionally held at King's College, Cambridge, England, on December 24th every year. The Festival was first held on Christmas Eve, 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's College after experience as an army chaplain. A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons. In almost every year some carols have been changed and some new ones introduced by successive organists. However, the backbone of the service, the lessons and the prayers, has remained virtually unchanged for nearly 100 years.

### **OUR CHRISTMAS SERIES**



A parent says, "I want to give my kids a real Christmas." What do you think that parent means? Perhaps they are thinking of a trimming a freshly cut tree or finding the perfect presents or spending the holidays with extended family. Perhaps they are thinking about all those things. "Then it will be a real Christmas!" Certainly, all those are wonderful things. However, none of them are what makes Christmas real.

If you want a real Christmas, then you need to observe know what Christmas is all about. Christmas is all about Jesus. In the person of Jesus, God gave us himself. Because God became true man and did everything for our salvation. God's gift of himself given to you makes a real Christmas. It means along with himself forgiveness, hope, peace, and good news are yours. A real Christmas is already yours.

#### **OPENING HYMN**

Once in Royal David's City

Christian Worship 343

1 Once in al Da - vid's cit - y stood low ly roy а earth from who is 2 He came down to heav - en God and 3 last shall see him through his And our eves at own re poor, low - ly 4 Not in that sta - ble with the ox en \_ cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - bv in а Lord of all, and his shel - ter was sta - ble, and his а dear and deem-ing that child, is love, for SO gen - tle, our stand-ing bv shall we see him, but in heav - en, set at ger for his man bed: Mar - y was that moth er dle was stall: with the cra poor and mean and а Lord in heav'n a bove, and he leads his chil - dren -God's right hand on high. Then like stars his chil - dren Ĵ Christ tle child. mild, sus her lit -Je low - ly lived on earth our Sav ior ho ly. the place where he is on to gone. crowned, all in white, his praise will sound.

The author once overheard some of her godchildren complaining about learning the catechism. So she wrote hymns, including "Once in Royal David's City," to help make the catechism more meaningful.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–1895, abr., alt. Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

#### **BIDDING PRAYER**

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

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

But first, let us pray for people all over the world who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ and who would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of this city/place 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, those who do not love him, and those 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.

#### 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.

#### FIRST LESSON

The Seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head.

<sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

<sup>10</sup>He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

<sup>11</sup>And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

<sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

<sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"

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

<sup>14</sup>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.
<sup>15</sup>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."



#### **Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising** Christian Worship 362 Stanzas 1-4 Come, your hearts and voic es rais - ing, Christ the 1 -2 Christ, from heav'n de scend - ing and to us in 3 cob's Star all its splen - dor beams with Ja in 4 From the bond - age that op - pressed us, from sin's Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; loud lv sing his be - friend-ing, love our race in our need his fort ten - der, forc -Sa com sweet and ing tan fet ters that pos - sessed us, from the grief that thy folk of Christ love a - maz - ing, wor en - dom. help ex - tend - ing, saved us from the wi ly foe. hell. sur - ren - der, break - ing all the of to pow'rs sore dis-tressed us, we, the cap tives, are free. now

This carol connects the birth of Jesus to the fulfillment of God's promise in Genesis 3.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr. Tune: German, 14th cent.

CAROL



#### Martin Luther would prepare a song for his family each Christmas Eve. This is one of those songs. Originally 15 stanzas in length, the first five stanzas were sung by a man dressed as an angel, stanza 6 by the family, stanzas 7-14 sung by the children, and stanza 15 sung by all.

#### SECOND LESSON

#### Genesis 22:15-18

God promises Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations will be blessed.

<sup>15</sup>The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time <sup>16</sup>and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>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, <sup>18</sup>and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

### CAROL

#### This is the Christ Sandra McCracken

Good news from heav'n the angels bring, Glad tidings to the earth they sing: To us this day a Child is giv'n, To crown us with the joy of heav'n.

#### Refrain

This is the Christ, our God and Lord, Who in all need shall aid afford; He will Himself our Savior be, And from our sins will set us free.

All hail, Thou noble Guest, this morn, Whose love did not the sinner scorn: In my distress Thou com'st to me, What thanks shall I return to Thee? *Refrain* 

Were earth a thousand times as fair, Beset with gold and jewels rare, She yet were far too poor to be A narrow cradle, Lord, for Thee. Praise God upon His heavenly throne, Who gave to us His only Son; For this His hosts, on joyful wing, A blessed New Year of mercy sing. *Refrain* 

Text: tr. Arthur T. Russel 1806-1874; Martin Luther, 1483-1546 Tune: Sandra McCracken, b. 1977

#### THIRD LESSON

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>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.

### CAROL

**Joy to the World** Christian Worship 353



Isaac Watts' interpretation of Psalm 98 speaks of Christ's blessings extending victoriously over the realm of sin.



#### FOURTH LESSON

#### A Branch from the stump of Jesse will bear fruit.

<sup>1</sup>A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
<sup>2</sup>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—
<sup>3</sup>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; <sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness will be his belt

and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>The cow will feed with the bear,

their young will lie down together,

and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

<sup>8</sup>The infant will play near the cobra's den,

and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. <sup>9</sup>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.



### CAROL

#### There Blooms a Rose in Bethlehem

Music & Words: Neil DeGraide

Loosely based on the German carol "Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming," this modern rendition takes us from Christ's birth in Bethlehem to his saving work on the cross.

There blooms a rose in Bethlehem From tender stem hath sprung Of Jesse's line this flower grows As men of old have sung Isaiah told us long ago About this rose we'd find In virgin arms we shall behold The Savior of mankind

The glories of the heavens Surrounded shepherds bright The angels sang, a sign was shown The Christ was born that night What mystery they came upon The sign the heralds laud In manger slept the Holy One In flesh, the Son of God

This flow'r in bloom, a scent so sweet That greets us in the air It has dispelled with hopefulness The sting of death's despair Foretold, this rose was born to die But would not see decay So those who place their faith in Him Shall blossom from the grave

#### **FIFTH LESSON**

#### The angel Gabriel announces to Mary the birth of a son.

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup>Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup>"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>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.

<sup>38</sup>"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.



#### CAROL

#### The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Christian Worship 328

This Basque carol

account of the annunciation and the Magnificat in Luke 1.

paraphrases the Biblical



Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.; Basque, c. 18th cent. Tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.

#### DEVOTION

Luke 2:1-7

#### St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>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.

### SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

#### The Shepherds go to the manger.

<sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to 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. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

<sup>15</sup>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."

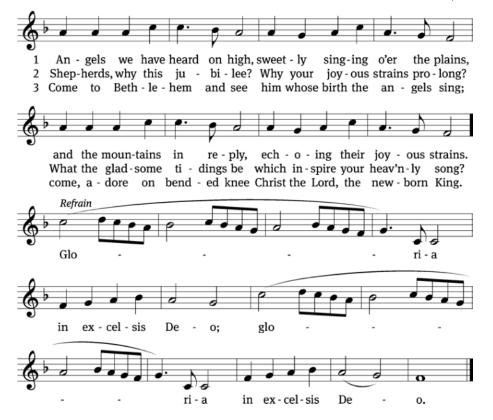


<sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

#### CAROL

#### Angels We Have Heard on High

Christian Worship 346



This old French carol highlights the dialogue between the angels and the shepherds.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, 1862, alt.; French Tune: French

#### **EIGHTH LESSON**

The Magi are led by the star to Jesus.

<sup>1</sup>After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup>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."

<sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup>" '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."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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."

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.



#### CAROL

Love Has Come Christian Worship 364

light in the dark-ness! Love shines forth in the 1 Love has come, а born! Come share in the won - der. Love 2 Love is is God now a -3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav-en has come to pro-claim it; sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er; last - ing and free. Je - sus with - in and a - mong Love is us. hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to the name her heart is say - ing? Love! what is Love! Love is the Love is the peace our hearts are seek-ing. Love! Love is the Love! Glo-ry to God on high! Sav - ior! Love! Love! vou. а name she whis-pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el. of Christ-mas. Love! Praise to you, God on high! gift Love!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950 Tune: F. Seguin, Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale, 1856 This hymn showcases the real gift of love God has given to all people through Christ's birth.

#### NINTH LESSON

#### St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

<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 with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <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 testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup>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.



#### CAROL

#### Of the Father's Love Begotten

Christian Worship 358



The words of this hymn comes from a series of 12 poems written by Aurelius Clemens Prudentius in the beginning of the 5th century. Prudentius connects Christ's incarnation and birth to ancient prophecies.

Text: tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–c. 413, abr. Tune: plainsong, 13th cent.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 

#### PRAYER

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all his glory in the life to come; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

### BLESSING

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

Amen.

An usher will come down the center aisle to light the candle of each person closest to the center. Please pass the flame down the row. When sharing your flame, in order to prevent wax spills, the lit candle should be held vertically and the unlit candle should be tipped towards the flame.

#### **CLOSING HYMN**

Silent Night, Holy Night

Christian Worship 337



### THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

Continue your Christmas celebration with us over the next three weeks.

First Sunday after Christmas	Sunday, December 29	10:00am
Second Sunday after Christmas	Sunday, January 5	10:00am
Epiphany Festival Service	Sunday, January 12	10:00am

### **SERVING TODAY**

Usher: Reinhard Wohlgemuth Slides & Music: Paul Giovinazzo Piano: Sarah Goetzinger Djembe: Tom Gohlke Duet: Sydney Burton & Hayley Giovinazzo Solo: Bryan Schmeling Altar Guild: Kathy Wohlgemuth Service Presentation: Paul Giovinazzo Cleaning: Jack & Mary Terry