



Lessons and Carols

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

KING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Golden Valley, Minnesota*

Welcome to God's divine service among his saints in his house this morning. If you experience any kind of barrier to worship, please speak with an usher. There is a hearing assistance system available, there are activity bags for children, and the service is streamed live in the Fireside Room down the hall for small children.

Festival of Lessons and Carols

The format of the "Nine Lessons and Carols" originated in England. It was first used on Christmas Eve in 1918 at King's College. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books, and the Gospels, alternated with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns, and choir music.

HYMN

Once in Royal David's City | #139: v.1 solo, v.2-5 congregation

INVOCATION

P: O Lord, open my lips,

C: and my mouth shall declare your praise.

P: Hasten to save me, O God.

C: O Lord, come quickly to help me.

P: Behold the King comes; let us worship him!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH AND LORD'S PRAYER

P: Friends in Christ: Let us hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind go to Bethlehem and see the loving-kindness of our God, and the baby lying in a manger. Let us hear in holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience to the glorious redemption gained for us by the holy child, Jesus Christ our Lord; and let us thank him with our carols of praise. But first let us pray to God for the needs of the whole world:

P: Heavenly Father, bring peace and goodwill among all people, so that we may learn to love one another, as your children. Look in mercy on the poor and helpless; the homeless, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, or who do not love him, or who by sin have grieved his heart. We come before you with all those who rejoice with us in a greater light, that heavenly multitude which none of us can number, with whom, in the Lord Jesus, we are one for evermore. In his name we pray:

**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.**

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

FIRST READING

Genesis 3:8–15

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of the woman will crush the snake's head.

⁸They heard the voice of the LORD God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹The LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

¹⁰The man said, "I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself."

¹¹God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?"

¹²The man said, "The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³The LORD God said to the woman, "What have you done?"

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

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all the livestock, and more than every wild animal. You shall crawl on your belly, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel."

ANTHEM

Thou Who Wast Rich

*Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger did surrender
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becamest poor.*

*Thou who art God beyond all praising
All for love's sake becamest man.
Stooping so low, but sinners raising,
Heav'nwards by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising
All for love's sake becamest man.*

*Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
Make us what thou would have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee, we worship thee.*

SECOND READING

Isaiah 9:6-7

The prophet proclaims the rule of the son of David will be eternal.

⁶For to us a child is born. To us a son is given. The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders. He will be named: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷There will be no limit to his authority and no end to the peace he brings. He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from now on, into eternity. The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

ANTHEM

What Child Is This?

*What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.*

*Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come peasant, king to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.*

THIRD READING

Isaiah 40:1-5

The prophet pictures God's redemption as a journey through the wilderness, just as the exodus from Egypt.

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her. Her warfare really is over. Her guilt is fully paid for. Yes, she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice is calling out:

In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD. In the wasteland make a level highway for our God. ⁴Every valley will be raised up, and every mountain and hill will be made low. The rugged ground will become level, and the rough places will become a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all flesh together will see it. Yes, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

ANTHEM

Hark! I Hear the Harps Resounding

*Hark, I hear the harps resounding! "Christ is near," we hear them say,
"Cast aside the work of darkness, all you children of the day."*

Alleluia....praise the Lamb!

Alleluia.....glory to the great I AM!

*"Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who toil and tremble, mourning under sorrow's load.*

Alleluia....praise the Lamb!

Alleluia....glory to the great I AM!

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and pain release us; let us find our hope in thee.
Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King;
Born to live in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

Alleluia....glory to the great I AM!

Alleluia....glory to the great I AM!

FOURTH READING

Isaiah 60:1–3

The prophet pictures God's redemption as an act of new creation, just as in the beginning.

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you. ²Look, darkness covers the earth, and deep darkness covers the peoples, but the LORD will dawn upon you, and his glory will be seen over you. ³Nations will walk to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

ANTHEM

All Praise to Thee

*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 our guest,
That weary ones may rest;
Forlorn and lowly is thy birth
That we may rise, to heav'n from earth.
Alleluia....*

FIFTH READING

Luke 1:26–35, 38

The angels announces the birth of Jesus.

²⁶In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women."

²⁹But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. ³⁰The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. ³¹Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end.”

³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon 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.

³⁸Then Mary said, “See, I am the Lord’s servant. May it happen to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

HYMN

My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord | #47

SIXTH READING

Luke 2:1–7

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³And everyone went to register, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

⁶And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

ANTHEM

Silent Night

The shepherds are told of the birth of Jesus.

⁸There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: ¹¹Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.”

ANTHEM

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night

*While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around, and glory shone around.*

*“Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled minds,
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind, to you and all mankind.*

*“To you, in Bethlehem, this day
Is born of David’s line,
A Savior, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign.*

*“The heav’nly babe there you shall find,
To human view displayed,
All simply wrapped in swaddling clothes,
And in a manger laid, and in a manger laid.”*

*“All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace; To those on whom his favor rests,
Goodwill shall never cease, goodwill shall never cease, begin and never cease.”*

EIGHTH READING

Luke 2:15–20

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

HYMN

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising | #128

NINTH READING

John 1:1–14

St. John describes the mystery of the incarnation.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. ⁵The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

⁹The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband’s will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

ANTHEM

The Glory of the Father

*The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.
We beheld the glory of the Father,
We beheld the glory of the Father,
Full of grace and truth.*

*In the beginning was the Word.
The Word, was with God,
In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.
He came to His own, and His own, received Him not.*

*The Word was made flesh,
And dwelt among us.
We beheld the glory of the Father,
We beheld the glory of the Father,
Full of grace and truth.*

BENEDICTION

P: May Christ the Son of God give you joy and peace by his presence with you; and the blessing of almighty God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – be with you always.



C: A - men, a - men, a - men.

Serving in Worship

Thank you to the members of King of Grace Senior Choir for enriching our service today!

Liturgist..... Vicar Max Kerr
Organist Karen Merseth
Choir Director..... Allen Labitzky
Violin Peggy Riley, Vicar Max Kerr
Viola Jack Larson
Cello John Werner
Clarinet..... Emma Borisevich



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