



Lessons and Carols

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023

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, and there are activity bags and a cry room for small children just beside the front door.

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, 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.

FIRST READING

Genesis 3:8–15

⁸ 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. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹ And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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.”

HYMN

The Tree of Life | #302

SECOND READING

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ 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. ⁷ 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.

ANTHEM

For Unto Us a Child Is Born

*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, unto us a son is given,
And the government shall be upon his shoulder
And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.*

THIRD READING

Isaiah 11:1–9

¹ A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ² 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 — ³ 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; ⁴ 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. ⁵ Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶ 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. ⁷ The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The infant will play near the cobra's den, the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. ⁹ 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.

ANTHEM

The Dream Isaiah Saw

*Lions and oxen will sleep in the hay, leopards will join with the lambs as they play,
Wolves will be pastured with cows in the glade,
Blood will not darken the earth that God made.*

*Refrain: Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw: life redeemed from fang and claw.*

*Peace will pervade more than forest and field.
God will transfigure the violence concealed deep in the heart
and in systems of gain, ripe for the judgment the Lord will ordain.*

Refrain

*Nature reordered to match God's intent, nations obeying the call to repent,
All of creation completely restored, filled with the knowledge and love of the Lord.*

Refrain

FOURTH READING

Isaiah 40:1-5

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

ANTHEM

And the Glory of the Lord

*And the glory, the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
And all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.*

FIFTH READING

Micah 5:2-4

² "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."

³ 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. ⁴ 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.

ANTHEM

O Little Town of Bethlehem

The poetry can be found at hymn #137: v.1-2, 4

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

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

HYMN

What Child Is This? | #145

**1. 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!**

**2. Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**3. So bring him incense, gold, and
myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

SEVENTH READING

Luke 2:8–14

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

ANTHEM

The Angels and the Shepherds

*Shepherds, O hark ye glad tidings we bring,
Peace and good will to the world now we sing;
See in a manger Christ the Anointed,
Whom for your Savior God hath appointed. Alleluia!*

*In yonder manger behold now he lies,
Whom angel voices foretold from the skies.
Seeking thy mercy, we kneel before thee,
Singing thy praises, humbly adore thee. Alleluia!*

*Still through the ages the song doth resound,
Peace and good will on the earth shall abound;
Bear we the tidings of ev'ry nation,
Born is the Christ Child for man's salvation. Alleluia!*

EIGHTH READING

Matthew 2:1–12

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² 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.”

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ 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. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶ “ ‘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.’”

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.”

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

ANTHEM

The First Nowell

*The first Nowell, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.*

*Then enter’d in those wisemen three,
Full rev’rently on bended knee.
And offer’d there in his presence,
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.*

*They looked up, and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far.
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.*

NINTH READING

John 1:1–14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

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

¹⁴ 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.

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful | #133

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

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.

Thank you to the members of the King of Grace choir for their dedicated preparation!

Liturgists..... Pastor Bernt Tweit and Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad
Choir Director..... Allen Labitzky
Organist / Accompanist..... Karen Merseth
FluteAnn Werner
HandbellsEric McDowell, Asher Madson, Per Madson, Cody Oppitz, Finley Pylka
Percussion.....Tim Guillaume, Phyllis Thomforde
Piano..... Natalie Josephitis, Jenny Merseth



King of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and School
6000 Duluth Street | 763-546-3131 | www.kingofgracelutheran.com
Member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Pastors Aaron Ferkenstad & Bernt Tweit | Principal Allen Labitzky