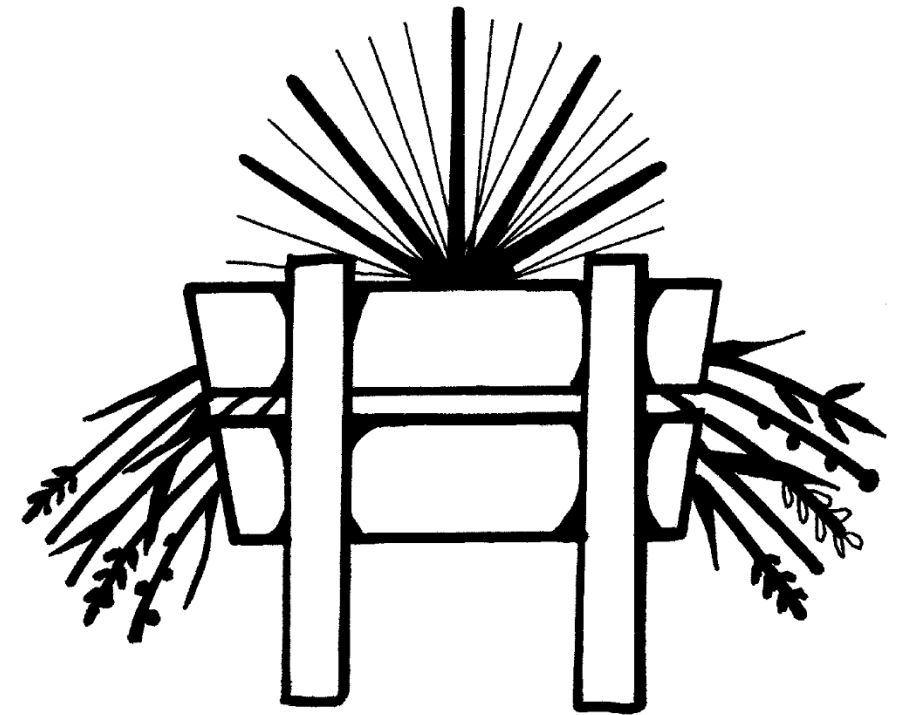


# **Christmas Day Lessons and Carols**



**December 25, 2022**

*This service tells of God's plan to save his people from their sins,  
beginning at the beginning of creation, and continuing through the coming of Jesus.  
We also celebrate his coming to us in the bread and wine of Holy Communion.*

**Lessons and Carols for Christmas**  
**Sunday, December 25, 2022**

**WELCOME**

**THE CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATTION**

Today, the twenty–fifth day of December,  
unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth  
and then formed man and woman in his own image.  
Several thousand years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth  
as a sign of the covenant.  
Twenty–one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah;  
thirteen centuries after Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt.  
Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges;  
one thousand years from the anointing of David as king;  
in the sixty–fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel.  
In the one hundred and ninety–fourth Olympiad;  
the seven hundred and fifty–second year from the foundation of the city of Rome.  
The forty–second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace,  
Jesus the Christ, eternal God and Son of the eternal Father,  
desiring to sanctify the world by his most merciful coming,  
being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months having passed since his conception,  
was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.  
Today is the nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

**GATHERING SONG: Joy to the World (LBW 39)**

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev’ry heart prepare him room, and heav’n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground,  
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.**

- P

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C

**And also with you.**

P Emmanuel, God with us, comes to us in the bread and wine of Holy Communion.  
This is the Lord’s Table, and all are welcome.

*Please come via the center aisle, receive the wafer and wine and return to your seat via the side aisle. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available – just ask. Children are welcome! Those who do not yet receive may come for a blessing. If you have difficulty walking, we will bring communion to you.*

**THE COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen us and keep us in his grace.  
C **Amen.**

A Let us pray: God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table  
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.  
As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace.  
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,  
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
C **Amen.**

P Almighty God, Father, Newborn Son +, and Holy Spirit bless us now and forever.  
C **Amen.**

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (LBW 60)**

**1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

*Refrain:* **Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

**2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain***

**3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain***

**DISMISSAL**

A Glory to God in the highest! Christ the Savior is born! Proclaim this good news.  
C **Thanks be to God!**

**DIALOGUE**

A Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.  
C **By day and night he shines for all to see.**  
A Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty  
C **that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**  
A God so loved the world that he sent Jesus,  
C **so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.**  
A Jesus is the Light of the world.  
C **Jesus is the Light of our lives.**  
A The Light shines in the darkness  
C **and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**  
P Let us pray: Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who  
became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in and through all  
that we say and do; through your newborn Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and  
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
C **Amen.**

**LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**First Reading:** Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void  
and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the  
waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light  
was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the  
darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.  
And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night;  
and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the  
dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. God made the two great lights —  
the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. God set  
them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night,  
and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.  
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Angels From the Realms of Glory (LBW 50)**

**1 Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth;  
Once you sang creation’s story; now proclaim Messiah’s birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.**

**2 All creation join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three-in-One.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the new-born King!**

**Second Reading:** Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**O Little Town of Bethlehem (LBW 41)**

**1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!**

**Third Reading:** Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**HOMILY**

**THE COMMUNION**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Angels We Have Heard on High (LBW 71)**

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in rely echoing their joyous strains:  
Glo- -ria in excelsis Deo! Glo- -ria in excelsis Deo!**

P In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to 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.**

**Seventh Reading:** John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Of the Father’s Love Begotten (LBW 42)**

- 1 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.**
- 2 Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,  
and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore.**
- 3 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.**
- 4 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.**
- 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:  
honor, glory, and dominion,  
and eternal victory evermore and evermore! Amen.**

**The Angel Gabriel (WOV 632)**

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:  
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favored lady." Gloria!**
- 2 "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honor thee;  
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favored lady." Gloria!**
- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!**
- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!**

**Fourth Reading:** Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

**Jesus, Name above all Names (W&P 77)**

**Jesus, name above all names  
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,  
Emmanuel, God is with us,  
Blessed Redeemer, living Word. (sing 3 times)**

**Fifth Reading:** Luke 2:8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.  
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Go Tell it on the Mountain (LBW 70)**

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

- 1     While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night,  
      Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
- 2     The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth  
      Rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior’s birth. *Refrain*
- 3     Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born,  
      and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*



**Sixth Reading:** Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise ones from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:  
'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"  
Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.  
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**What Child is This (LBW 40)**

- 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   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!

