



A FESTIVAL OF NINE

# LESSONS & CAROLS



---

135 NE Randolph Avenue, Peoria, Illinois 61606  
Online: [www.trinitypeoria.com](http://www.trinitypeoria.com) ~ (309) 676-4609

# A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

---

December 17, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.

## Participants

Liturgist: Pastor Matthew B. Synnott; Organists/Pianists: Peter Wykert and Carol Wessler;  
Acolyte: Samantha Brown; Lights and Sound: Chris Wahlmark; Sanctuary Choir; Bells of Joy; Trinity  
Brass; Various Instrumentalists; Jubilation! Youth Choir; Jubilation! Little Levites; Jubilation! 2-6-  
year-olds as the Live Nativity;

Lectors (listed in the order in which they read): Cindy Archer, Randy Irwin, Nicholas Farley, Mark  
Morrow, Chris Pasold, William Synnott, Mia Prince, Joan Freudenburg.

## Pre-Service Music

"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

*Peter Wykert, piano*

*setting by Lee Dengler*

*setting by Lee Dengler*

*setting by Lee Dengler*



## Ringling of the Bell

*Please stand and face the Processional Cross*

## Processional Carol

"Once In Royal David's City"

arr. Richard Proulx

Mary Farley, soloist

Soloist: *Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed;  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.*

**C** **He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and His shelter was a stable,  
and His cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and mean and lowly  
lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**And through all His wondrous childhood  
He would honor and obey,  
love and watch the lowly maiden,  
in whose gentle arms He lay:  
Christian children all must be  
mild, obedient, good as He.**



Choir: *For He is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us He grew,  
He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us He knew:  
and He feeleth for our sadness, and He shareth in our gladness.*

**And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
through His own redeeming love,  
for that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heav'n above;  
and He leads His children on  
to the place where He has gone.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see Him; but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high;  
where like stars His children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.**

Text: Cecil F. Alexander (1818-95)/Tune: irby, Henry J. Gauntlett (1805-76)

Copyright 1976 Augsburg Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission: OneLivence.net no. A-704862

## Bidding Prayer

**P** Dearly beloved in Christ, it is our purpose and delight this evening to hear once again in both word and song the message of salvation that was brought to us by the angels and then, in both heart and mind, to follow the shepherds to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass and the Babe lying in a manger. Therefore, let us read and hear from Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God who, from the first days of our sin and disobedience, designed to bring to us glorious Redemption through this Holy Child. Let us also sing and make this sanctuary glad with our hymns of proclamation and our carols of praise. But first, let us pray to this Child for the needs of the whole world and the needs of all His people;

*There will be a short pause after each petition to allow worshippers to offer their private petitions.*

- ✠ that His peace and joy may rest bountifully upon us, upon our loved ones, and upon this church;
- ✠ that His kingdom may be enlarged in our hearts and minds and through us extended to the people of this community and to all those upon whom His favor rests;
- ✠ particularly at this time let us remember before Him the poor and the helpless, the cold, and the hungry;
- ✠ those sick in either body or mind;
- ✠ those that mourn;
- ✠ the lonely, the unloved, and those persecuted for the sake of the Christ Child;
- ✠ the aged, our parents, and our children;
- ✠ for all of us who in our sin have grieved His heart of love and for those caught in the bondage of addictions and other sins, that they may be freed to know the fullness of Your love and grace;
- ✠ we especially pray for all those who do not know the Lord Jesus or do not proclaim Him as their Lord, that they may be lead to the knowledge and joy of the salvation through Jesus Christ;
- ✠ lastly let us remember and thank God for all those who have gone before and who rejoice with us in heaven; whose hope is in the Word made flesh and whose souls now dwell with our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

## Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

### Concluding Petition

**P** May the Almighty God bless us with His grace. May the Christ Child give us the joys of everlasting life and bring us all to live with Him eternally in heavenly glory.

**C** Amen.

*Please be seated*

### Invitation to Hear the Good News

**P** Let us now hear the Good News of our salvation from the very beginning and respond to it with carols of joy and songs of thanksgiving.

**C** We praise You, O God, for our salvation.

### First Lesson - The Fall and the first promise of salvation

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Congregational Carol

#### "God Loves Me Dearly"

LSB 392



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -  
2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and  
3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -  
4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did  
5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -

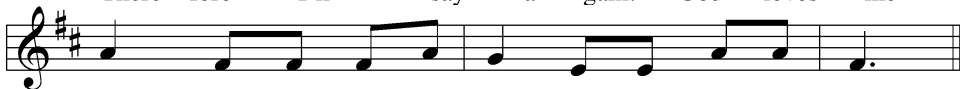


va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.  
dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.  
deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.  
of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.  
ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.

*Refrain*



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

*Text and tune: Public domain*

## Second Lesson - God's promise to Abraham

Genesis 22:15-18

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

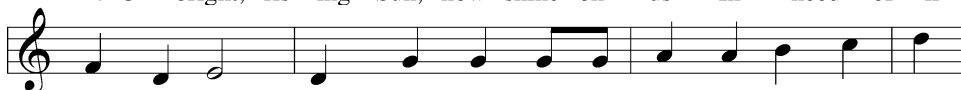
### Congregational Carol

"Sing Praise to the God of Israel"

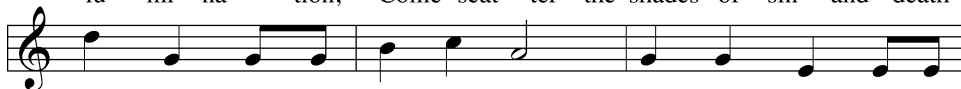
LSB 936



1 Sing praise to the God of Is - ra - el! Sing praise for His  
2 God spoke by the proph - ets long a - go, His prom - ise on  
3 You, child, will go on be - fore the Lord As proph - et, His  
4 O bright, ris - ing Sun, now shine on us In need of il -



vis - i - ta - tion! Re - deem - ing His peo - ple from their sin,  
oath re - call - ing— To A - bra - ham made in for - mer years:  
way pre - par - ing; To speak on be - half of God Most High,  
lu - mi - na - tion; Come scat - ter the shades of sin and death



Ac - com - plish - ing their sal - va - tion, Up - rais - ing a  
Of - van - quish - ing foes ap - pall - ing, That those He de -  
His coun - sel of truth de - clar - ing: Rich mer - cy and  
And shat - ter their dom - i - na - tion. Be guid - ing our



might - y horn with - in The house of His ser - vant Da - vid!  
liv - ered from their fears Might glad - ly and tru - ly serve Him.  
grace for all where - by In - iq - ui - ty is for - giv - en.  
foot - steps on the path Of peace, in Your pres - ence dawn - ing!

Text: © 1992 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001430; Tune: Public domain

## Third Lesson – Isaiah foretells Christ's birth and His kingdom

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Carol

"A Christmas Gloria"  
Sanctuary Choir

by John A. Behnke (ASCAP)

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*To us a child is born, to us a son is given.*

*God comes to us as a tiny baby, looking so fragile and helpless to all.*

*What we don't see is the God of creation putting the plan of salvation in place.*

*Look on the beauty that shines in the darkness; see there the Holy, begotten from time,  
The Lamb of God who has come as our Savior. See in the manger God's Son born this night.*

*We hear the angels announce His arrival; we see the shepherds rejoicing this night.  
Now spread the Good News to all earth's people- the gift of new life is given today.*

Copyright 2022 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## Fourth Lesson – The peace that Christ will bring is foretold

*Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9*

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Congregational Carol

"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 and tune: Public domain

## Fifth Lesson – The angel Gabriel visits Mary

*Luke 1:26-38*

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

# Congregational Carol

## "My Soul Rejoices"

LSB 933



1 My soul re - joice - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
 2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the  
 great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
 great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He  
 fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
 shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion  
 bless - ing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
 halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the  
 ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
 wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the  
 sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,  
 to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring  
 Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!  
 God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

Tune: Public domain Text: © 1991 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001430

## Sixth Lesson – Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1, 3-7

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Carol

### "In the Bleak Midwinter"

setting by Brian L. Hanson

Sanctuary Choir

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
 Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow; In the bleak midwinter, long ago.*



Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain; Heav'n & earth shall flee away when He comes to reign;  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow. For all is hushed, the world is sleeping,  
Holy star its vigil keeping. Still, still, still, one can hear the falling snow.

What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.

Copyright 2018 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## Seventh Lesson – The shepherds go to the manger

Luke 2:8-16

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Congregational Carol

## "Angels We Have Heard on High"

LSB 368



Choir 1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
Choir 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
All 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*



All Glo - - - - - ri - a



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



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

Copyright 2024 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## Eighth Lesson - The wise men are led by the star to Jesus

Matthew 2:1-11

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Congregational Carol

"As with Gladness Men of Old"

arr. Molly Ijames

Sanctuary Choir

*As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright.  
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by Thee.*

*As they offered gifts most rare at the manger rude and bare;  
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.*

**C** Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day Keep us in the nar - row way;  
And when earth - ly things are past, Bring our ran - somed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glo - ry hide.

Copyright 2013 SoundForth, a division of The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Please stand

**Ninth Lesson** - Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

John 1:1-14

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

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Congregational 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.

### Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

### Collect

**P** Let us pray.

**C** O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold Him, when he comes again to be our judge; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

### Blessing

**P** May He who gathered things earthly and heavenly into one by his incarnation, 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 be seated*

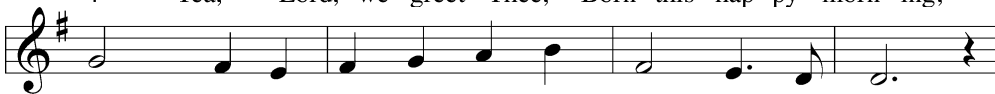
## Closing Carol

## "Oh 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!

## Silent Prayer

## Postlude

## "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

setting by Charles Callahan

Peter Wykert, organ

