

CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS

Grace Lutheran Church, ELCA

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Sunday, December 27, 2020



A Service of Lessons & Carols

We gather to celebrate through word and song the salvation we have received from God. More than the celebration of a birth, Christmas marks the mystery of the incarnation — God sharing our humanity. We are glad that you are here to experience Christ's very presence among us — as the word of hope and peace proclaimed to us, and as the word made flesh is made real in communion. With the heavenly host we sing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven".

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GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us together as the people of God

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Welcome!

Lessons and Carols
Pre-Service Concert

Mary, Did You Know?

by Mark Lowry/Buddy Green
Lexi and Lydia Markwart, vocal duet
Jeanette Markwart, piano

Angels from the Realms of Glory

by Henry T. Smart, arr. Brent Edstrom
Carla Neil, piano

Coventry Carol

Traditional English Carol, arr. Nicole Chamberlain
Kim Domke and Cindy Olson, flute

Ave Maria

by Franz Schubert
Cindy Olson, vocal solo
Chris Bush, piano

The CHRIST CANDLE & CHRISTMAS GOOD NEWS

- P** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**
- A** Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness – on them light shined.
C **We have seen Christ’s light, the light from God is Jesus.**
- P** For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
C **In Jesus is life, and the life is the light of all the world.**

I

A VOICE OF COMFORT — Jack Vos

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” ⁶A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of

Isaiah 40:1-11

the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” ¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

L Word of God. Word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

CAROL OF COMFORT

As We Make our Advent Journey

tune ELW 275

I

As we make our Advent journey,
let us walk as in the Lord.
Pilgrims with a holy calling
trav'ling, strengthened by God's word,
toward the stable, toward the manger,
toward the gift of God made flesh.

II

In the desert, blooms and blossoms
mark the Way of Holiness.
As we travel with rejoicing
strengthen, ransomed, undistressed.
Now restored by water springing,
in the Lord, we new begin



As a mother comforts her child,
So we are comforted by our
Good & Gracious God.

II

A VOICE OF EXPECTATION - Anna Scheck

Luke 12:35-38

Have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell

you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

📖 Word of God. Word of life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

CAROL OF EXPECTATION

The Advent of our God

tune ELW 279

I

The advent of our God we seek,
The coming of our Lord.
We seek the Lord of Grace who saves:
the Savior - loved - adored.
We pray for Jesus' coming
into our world of sin.
We hope for life, we pray for Christ,
our God, who dwells within.

II

All glory be to Christ, the Son
who died upon the tree.
All praise to God the One who makes,
creates and made us free.
Sing to the Holy Spirit
who moves among us still.
We hope for life, we pray for Christ,
our Lord Emmanuel

III

A VOICE OF HOPE — Bill Freedlund

Psalm 119:41-49

⁴¹Let your steadfast love come to me, O LORD,
your salvation according to your
promise.⁴²Then I shall have an answer for
those who taunt me, for I trust in your word.

⁴³Do not take the word of truth utterly out of
my mouth, for my hope is in your ordinances.
⁴⁴I will keep your law continually, forever and
ever. ⁴⁵I shall walk at liberty, for I have sought

your precepts. ⁴⁶I will also speak of your
decrees before kings, and shall not be put to
shame; ⁴⁷I find my delight in your
commandments, because I love them.

⁴⁸I revere your commandments, which I love,
and I will meditate on your statutes.
⁴⁹Remember your word to your servant, in
which you have made me hope.

📖 Word of God. Word of life.

🙏 Thanks be to God.



hope

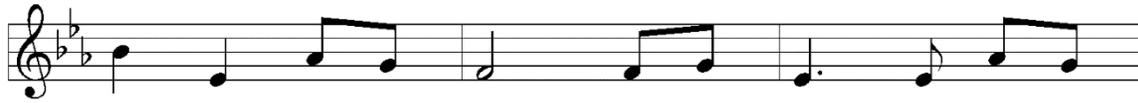
CAROL OF HOPE

Holy Child Within the Manger

WOV 638



1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -
2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your
3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us



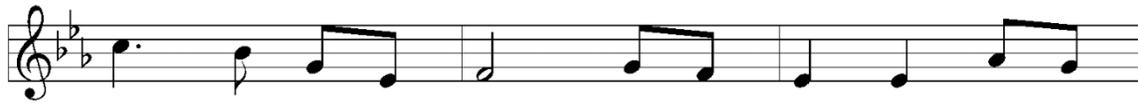
go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry
love for us was shown, when the im - age of your
ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry



stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.
glo - ry wore an im - age like our own.
stran - ger how you come to us to - day.



As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the
Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and
In our lives and in our liv - ing give us



out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -
fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -
strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -



spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.
pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.
giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

IV

A VOICE OF PROMISE — Sandy Mosteller

Isaiah 65:17-19

¹⁷For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. ¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its

people as a delight. ¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.

☐ Word of God. Word of life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL OF PROMISE

The King Shall Come

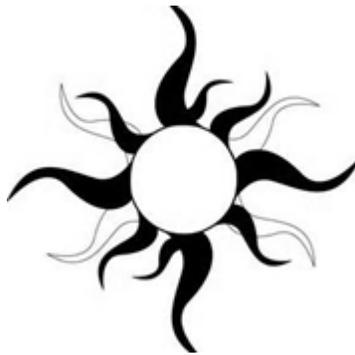
tune ELW 271

I

**The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills,
And life to earth awakes.**

II

**Not as of old a little child,
to bear and fight and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun.
that lights the morning sky.**



V

A VOICE OF ANNUNCIATION — Doug Neeb

Luke 1:26-33

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then 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.

☐ Word of God. Word of life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

CAROL OF ANNUNCIATION Before the Marvel of This Night Duet: Ken & Anna Scheck

*Before the marvel of this night, adoring, fold your wings and bow,
Then tear the sky apart with light, and with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease:
Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!*

*Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the Lord has made.
Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heav'nly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss:
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss!*

*The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,
Now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above:
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love, sing love, sing God is love!*

VI



A VOICE OF FULFILLMENT — Carol Vos

Luke 2:8-16

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before 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 see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in

a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

☐ Word of God. Word of life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

CAROL OF FULFILLMENT

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW 276



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!



VII

A VOICE OF GOD'S GREAT LIGHT — Ethan Scheck

Isaiah 60:1-5a

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.⁴Lift up

your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice.

☐ Word of God. Word of life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

CAROL OF CELEBRATION

Creator of Stars of Night

tune ELW 289

**Cre-a-tor of Stars of night.
You're the people's lasting light.
Christ, redeemer of us all.
We pray you will hear us all. (*refrain*)**

**When this world drew on toward night,
You came without flashing light.
Not as monarch, but as Child.
Mary mother meek and mild. (*refrain*)**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

The CREED

Ⓐ With the whole people of God, let us confess our faith.

☒ We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the virgin Mary, and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

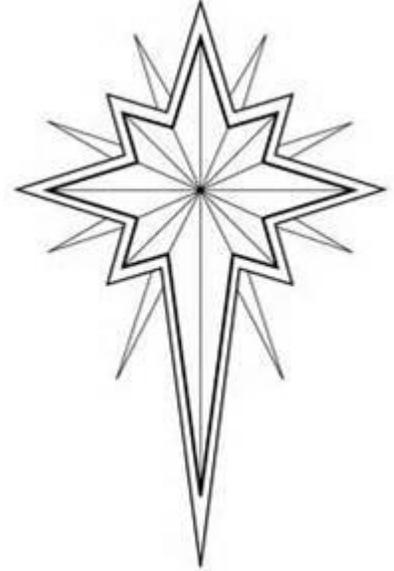
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen



THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- Ⓐ Pondering the mystery of the Word made flesh, let us bring before the throne of God our prayers on behalf of the church, the world, and all people in need.
- Ⓐ Night and day, all creation praises you, O God. Strengthen your church across nations, denominations, and traditions. Fill us with wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy. God of our salvation,
- ☞ **thank you for hearing us.**
- Ⓐ All creation is holy to you, O God. You cause the earth to bring forth its shoots and gardens to spring up. Protect hibernating animals and frozen lands that wait earnestly for longer days of awakening and growth. God of our salvation,
- ☞ **thank you for hearing us.**
- Ⓐ The nations are upheld by your hand, O God. Cause righteousness and praise to spring forth, inspiring leaders to serve with compassion and integrity. Send your spirit of discernment upon legislators grappling with complex decisions for the sake of the common good. God of our salvation,
- ☞ **thank you for hearing us.**
- Ⓐ Send the spirit of your Son into our hearts, O God. Come quickly to hearts that race with fear, hearts that break with grief, and hearts that long for wholeness (*especially*). Reveal your power to heal and to save. God of our salvation,
- ☞ **thank you for hearing us.**
- Ⓐ Adopt us into your family, O God. Bless our elders with the peace and joy of Simeon and Anna. Strengthen those who have retired, those who work in older age, and those in need of income, food, company, or health care. Connect young and old across generations. God of our salvation,
- ☞ **thank you for hearing us.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

- Ⓐ Let us depart in peace, O God, according to your word. For (*John, apostle and evangelist, and*) all your saints, we give you thanks. Prepare our salvation in the sight of all your witnesses of every time and place. God of our salvation,
- ☞ **thank you for hearing us.**
- Ⓟ Confident that you establish righteousness and justice in the world, we commend to you all for whom we pray; through your Son and our redeemer, Jesus Christ.
- ☞ **Amen.**

The PEACE

- Ⓟ The peace Christ be with you always.
- ⓐ And also with you.

The Offering of GIFTS and MUSIC

Greensleeves to a Ground

Anonymous, edited by Franco Cesarini
Kim Domke, flute and Chris Bush, piano

The OFFERTORY RESPONSE

ELW tune 302

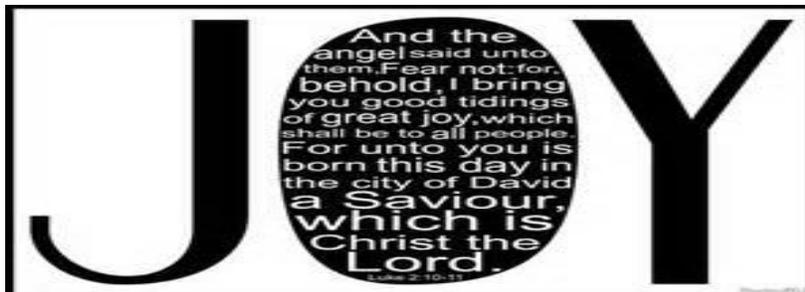
As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle, rude and bare.
So may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy.
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ to you, our heav'nly king.

The OFFERTORY PRAYER

- Ⓐ Let us pray...Almighty God, you made this Holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light.
- ⓐ Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The LORD'S PRAYER

- Ⓟ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
- ⓐ Our Father in heaven, holy 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.



VIII

A VOICE OF JOY — Gwen Hansen

I Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

☐ Word of God. Word of life.

☑ Thanks be to God.

CAROL OF JOY

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

ELW 282



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

IX

A VOICE OF SENDING — Pastor Ken Scheck II**I Peter 2:9-10**

⁹But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous

light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

☐ Word of God. Word of life.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

THE BLESSING

☐ Let us glory in the birth of the Son of God, and celebrate the blessing of almighty God, the Father, + the Son, and the Holy Spirit who is among us now and forever.

☑ **Amen**

CAROL OF SENDING

Go Tell It On The Mountain

tune ELW 290

**While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.**

Refrain

**The shepherds feared and trembled
When, lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth**

Refrain

Refrain:

***Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and e'vywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain, That Jesus Christ is born!***

☐ **Go in peace! Serve our Newborn King!**

☑ **Thanks be to God!**

THE SENDING MUSIC*Go, Tell it on the Mountain*

African American Spiritual
arr. James D. Kimball
Grace Notes

The Word Takes a Walk

Today's gospel reading does not celebrate some bucolic scene of two young parents cradling their newborn. This day is not *simply* the remembrance of a time gone by when the baby Jesus was born into the world on a cold night in a stable meant for animals. Today — the first Sunday of Christmas — trains us to see the event of the incarnation not as something that happened long ago, but as an event that is always happening here in the world today. Today we go back to square one: "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . And the Word became flesh and lived among us*" (John 1:1, 14). Christmas is the celebration of the incarnation. It is the celebration of a God who does more than just talk a big game but who puts God's body on the line, who manifests God's intentions and desires and love.

Today is marked by celebration and by call. The celebration is that God is presently at work, embodying love and presence in our lives. God is not an abstraction, but rather our tangible reality. The call is for us to be a part of that incarnation. What Christmas tells us is that God makes good use of bodies; God even inhabited one! The call of Christmas is to answer the question: How does God's love long to inhabit and make good use of *your* body? How does God desire to reveal God's promises through *you*?

Today we gather to celebrate the miracle of Christmas, the fact that God walks off the page in the form of Jesus Christ and into the world in which we live. Keep your eyes open and look: Where is God's Word, which creates and redeems the whole world, taking on flesh in your church, in your home, in your community, and in the world? Wherever that happens, Christmas has come.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

239 East North Street

Hastings, Michigan 49058

Assisting Minister – Ethan Scheck

Readers listed in worship folder

Minister of Music – Cindy Olson

Musicians – Chris Bush, Kim Domke, Carla Neil, Anna Scheck, Ethan Scheck, Laura Scheck, Kristi Winick, Grace Notes – COVID 19 Bell Choir Members: Kim Domke, Leona Frost, Joan Heffelbower, Samantha McClive, Vickie McKellar, Lisa Pohl and Anita Shaw

Pastor – Ken Scheck