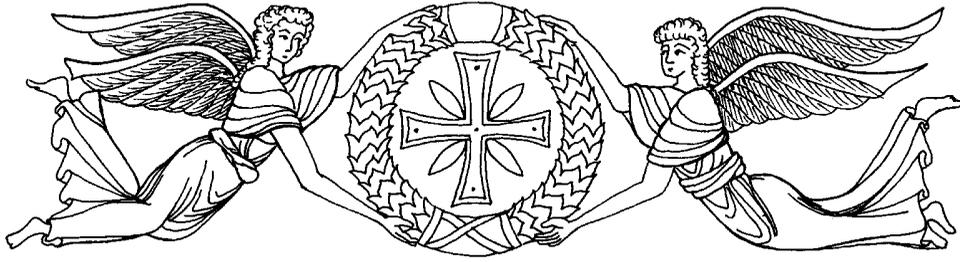


# Lessons and Carols for Christmas



Prerecorded Service  
Christmas Eve 2020



*We are delighted that you are joining us for this joyous celebration of our Lord's birth! Please come back again soon to hear His Word of life and forgiveness.*

*This service is our adaptation of the Lessons and Carols service that is become common for Christmas services over the past generation or so. While I realize that doing this service recorded is not exactly as we have done it before, I am confident that this will be a beautiful and edifying service, as well as a confession to our friends and neighbors all around that our Lord is born this night.*

*Merry Christmas in Jesus' Name,  
Pastor Peperkorn*

## Prelude

### Now Sing We Now Rejoice

LSB 386

Stanzas 1, 3 & 4

- 1      **Now sing we, now rejoice,  
Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
    He from whom joy streameth  
Poor in a manger lies;  
    Not so brightly beameth  
The sun in yonder skies.  
    Thou my Savior art!  
    Thou my Savior art!**
  
- 3      **Now through His Son doth shine  
The Father's grace divine.  
    Death was reigning o'er us  
Through sin and vanity  
    Till He opened for us  
A bright eternity.  
    May we praise Him there!  
    May we praise Him there!**
  
- 4      **Oh, where shall joy be found?  
Where but on heav'nly ground?  
    Where the angels singing  
With all His saints unite,  
    Sweetest praises bringing  
In heav'nly joy and light.  
    Oh, that we were there!  
    Oh, that we were there!**

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## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Bidding Prayer

**P** Beloved in Christ: In this Christmas season it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us, the Christ-child, lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving promises of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for people all over the world, who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ and who would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of this city and for all those in our own congregation.

And because this would please our Lord, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, or who do not love him, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven in the words Christ himself taught us:

**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.**

*Be seated.*

## **Lesson 1**

## **Genesis 3:8–16**

<sup>8</sup>And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup>He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field;

on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring;

he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

<sup>16</sup>To the woman he said,

"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **O Sing of Christ**

LSB 362

*Stanzas 1, 2 & 4*

- 1**     **O sing of Christ, whose birth made known**  
          **The kindness of the Lord,**  
**Eternal Word made flesh and bone**  
          **So we could be restored.**  
**Upon our frail humanity**  
          **God's finger chose to trace**  
**The fullness of His deity,**  
          **The icon of His grace.**
- 2**     **What Adam lost, none could reclaim,**  
          **And Paradise was barred**  
**Until the second Adam came**  
          **To mend what sin had marred.**  
**For when the time was full and right**  
          **God sent His only Son;**  
**He came to us as life and light**  
          **And our redemption won.**
- 4**     **Lord Jesus Christ, You deigned to dwell**  
          **Among us here on earth**  
**As God with us, Emmanuel,**  
          **To bring this holy birth.**  
**Though rich, You willingly became**  
          **One with our poverty,**  
**That we might share Your wealth and name**  
          **For all eternity!**

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## Lesson 4

***Micah 5:2–4***

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth;

then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Sussex Carol

Peperkorn Family

## Lesson 5

***Luke 1:26–35, 38***

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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 father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God.

<sup>38</sup>And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

LSB 359

*Choral Stanza 1, ALL Stanza 4*

**1**     **Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
As prophets long have sung,  
It came, a flow'ret bright,  
Amid the cold of winter,  
When half-spent was the night.**

**4**     **O Savior, child of Mary,  
Who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, King of glory,  
Who dost our weakness know:  
Bring us at length we pray  
To the bright courts of heaven,  
And to the endless day.**

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## Lesson 6

***Luke 2:1-17***

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And

suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest,

and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Angels We Have Heard on High**

*LSB 368*

**1**      **Angels we have heard on high,  
          Sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
          And the mountains in reply,  
          Echoing their joyous strains. Refrain**

**ref**     **Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
          Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**2**      **Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
          Why your joyous strains prolong?  
          What the gladsome tidings be  
          Which inspire your heav’nly song? Refrain**

**3**      **Come to Bethlehem and see  
          Him whose birth the angels sing;  
          Come, adore on bended knee  
          Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Refrain**

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## Lesson 8

**Luke 2:17-20**

<sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374

**1 Gentle Mary laid her child  
Lowly in a manger;  
There He lay, the Undeclared,  
To the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place,  
Can He be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race  
Who have found His favor.**



**2 Angels sang about His birth,  
Wise Men sought and found Him;  
Heaven's star shone brightly forth  
Glory all around Him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,  
Heard the angels singing;  
All the plains were lit that night,  
All the hills were ringing.**

**3 Gentle Mary laid her child  
Lowly in a manger;  
He is still the Undeclared  
But no more a stranger.  
Son of God of humble birth,  
Beautiful the story;  
Praise His name in all the earth;  
Hail the King of glory!**

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### Sermon

**Offering** (please mail in your offering, or sign up to do so electronically.)

*Please Stand*

## Prayer for Christmas Eve

**P** O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Benediction

**P** The grace of the Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** Amen.

## Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!

*LSB 387*

**1** 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,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

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

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## Postlude

## Acknowledgments

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## Serving Holy Cross Tonight

Pastor

Rev. Todd A. Peperkorn

Lectors

Dennis Boehle-Silva, Walt Wismar

Organ

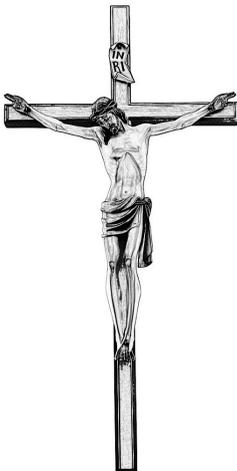
Marian Metson

Additional Musicians

The Peperkorn Family

**Please join us for the following services of our Lord:**

**Christmas Day Festival Service with Holy Communion at 11 a.m**



## Holy Cross Lutheran Church

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