

CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelight

SERVICE



A Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas Eve

CHRIST Evangelical Lutheran Church

500 Park Street ○ West Salem, Wisconsin ○ 608.786.1250

christlutheranwestsalem.com

Pastors | Don Frelitz

Organist | Christine Bright

Usher | Team M

Galen Riediger



Welcome to worship this Christmas Evening.

We glorify and praise our merciful Heavenly Father
for our most precious gift, Jesus Christ.

The service of lessons and carols is an adaptation of the
Christmas Carol Service traditionally held at King's College, Cambridge,
England, on December 24th.

CHRISTMAS

50

Once in Royal David's City

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y
2 He came down to earth from heav - en

Stood a low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a
Who is God and Lord of all, And his

moth - er laid her ba - by In a man - ger
shel - ter was a sta - ble, And his cra - dle

for his bed; Mar - y was that moth - er mild,
was a stall; With the poor and mean and low - ly

Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.

Exhortation and Prayer

Leader: Dear people of God, 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 to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us- the Christ Child lying in the manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scriptures the story of the loving purpose 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 from 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 place and for all those in our congregation.

And, because this world 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, and the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, those who do not love him, and those 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.

To sum up all these petitions, let us pray as Christ himself taught us.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Nine Lessons and Carols

First Lesson:

Genesis 3:8-15

The Seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head.

⁸ They heard the voice of the LORD God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ The LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ The man said, "I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself." ¹¹ God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it." ¹³ The LORD God said to the woman, "What have you done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all the livestock, and more than every wild animal. You shall crawl on your belly, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel.

28 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has
5 Crush for me the ser - pent's head That, set
tru - ly kept his word And at last to
free from doubt and dread, I may cling to
us did send Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
you in faith, Safe - ly kept through life and death,

6 And, when you shall come again
As a glorious king to reign,
I with joy may see your face,
Freely ransomed by your grace.

God's promise to Abraham

¹⁵The Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, "I have sworn by myself, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will bless you greatly, and I will multiply your descendants greatly, like the stars of the sky and like the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the city gates of their enemies. ¹⁸In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

CHRISTMAS

46 **Your Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We**

1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we And come your
 2 With songs we has - ten you to greet And hum - bly

low - ly bed to see; En - light - en ev - 'ry
 fall be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,

soul and mind That we the way to you may find.
 sweet - est night That gave you birth, our souls' de - light.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light.

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned. ⁶For to us a child is born. To us a son is given. The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders. He will be named: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷There will be no limit to his authority and no end to the peace he brings. He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from now on, into eternity. The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

EPIPHANY

90

The People that in Darkness Sat

1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious
 2 To us a child of hope is born, To us a
 5 Lord Je - sus, reign in us, we pray, And make us



light have seen; The light has shone on them who long In
 son is giv'n, And on his shoul - ders ev - er rests, All
 yours a - lone, For you are with the Fa - ther and The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.
 pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
 Spir - it ev - er one, The Spir - it ev - er one.

Text: John Morison, 1750-98, abr., alt.

Tune: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN (86 866) Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561.

A Branch from the stem of Jesse

^{11:1} A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³ He will be delighted with the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, nor will he render decisions based on what he hears with his ears, ⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the poor, and he will render fair decisions in favor of the oppressed on the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath from his lips he will put the wicked to death. ⁵ Righteousness will be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his hips. ⁶ The wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, the calf, the young lion, and the fattened calf together, and a little child will lead them. ⁷ The cow and the bear will graze together, and their young ones will lie down together. The lion will eat straw like the cattle. ⁸ The nursing child will play near a cobra's hole, and the weaned child will put his hand into a viper's den. ⁹ They will not hurt or destroy anywhere on my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Sung by the small choir

CHRISTMAS

47

Behold, a Branch Is Growing

1 Be - hold, a Branch is grow - ing Of
 2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it In

love - liest form and grace, As proph - ets sang, fore -
 words of prom - ise sure, And Mar - y's arms en -

know - ing; It springs from Jes - se's race And
 fold it, A vir - gin meek and pure. Through

bears one lit - tle flow'r In midst of cold - est
 God's e - ter - nal will This child to her is

win - ter, At deep - est mid - night hour.
 giv - en At mid - night calm and still.

The angel Gabriel visits Mary

²⁶In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women." ²⁹But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. ³¹Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "See, I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

CHRISTMAS

36

A Great and Mighty Wonder



1 A great and mighty wonder, A
2 The Word becomes incarnate And



glorious mys-ter-y: A vir-gin bears an
yet re-mains on high, And cher-u-bim sing



in-fant Who veils his de-i-ty.
an-thems To shep-herds from the sky.

Refrain

Re - peat the hymn a - gain: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace on earth to men."

The birth of Jesus

^{2:1} In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³ And everyone went to register, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child. ⁶ And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

CHRISTMAS

65

O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And,



still we see thee lie! A - bove thy deep And
gath - ered all a - bove, While mor - tals sleep, The



dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by.
an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro -



ev - er - last - ing light. The hopes and fears Of
claim the ho - ly birth, And prais - es sing To



all the years Are met in thee to - night.
God the King And peace to all the earth.

The shepherds visit the manger

⁸ There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock 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. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: ¹¹ Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.” ¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

CHRISTMAS

54

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt



1 Where shep - herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,
2 In that un - like - ly place I find him as they said:



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange - ly stirred;
Sweet new - born Babe, how frail! and in a man - ger bed,



But there is room and wel - come there for me,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,



But there is room and wel - come there for me.
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.

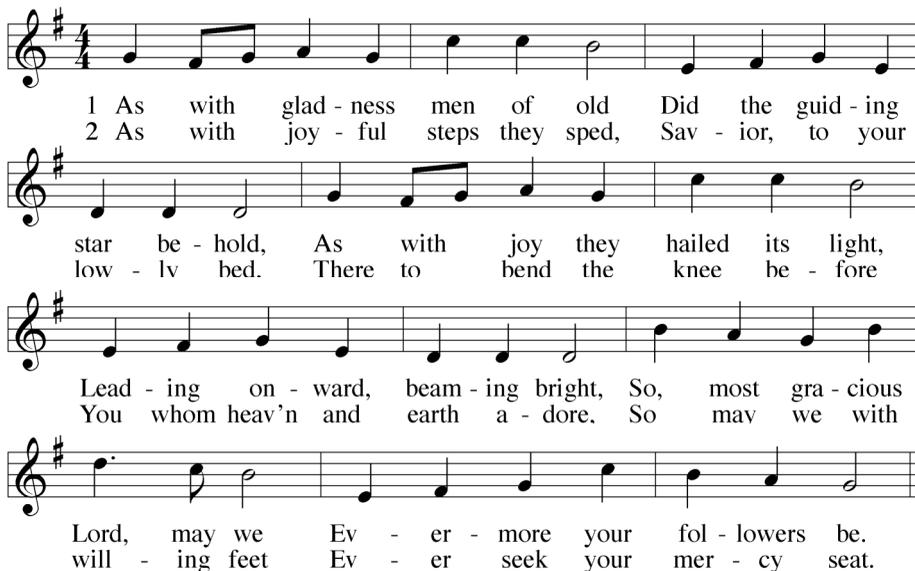
The Magi worship the newborn King.

^{2:1} After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, ²“Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴He gathered together all the people’s chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet: ⁶You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel.” ⁷Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.” ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. ¹¹After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

EPIPHANY

83

As with Gladness Men of Old



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to your
star be-hold, As with joy they hailed its light,
low-ly bed. There to bend the knee be-fore
Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright, So, most gra-cious
You whom heav'n and earth a-dore. So may we with
Lord, may we Ev-er-more your fol-lowers be.
will-ing feet Ev-er seek your mer-cy seat.

The mystery of the incarnation

^{1:1} 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 everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. ⁵ The light is shining 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 an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light. ⁹ The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The candles are lit from the ushers at the end of the pews. Please tip only the unlit candle to avoid spilling hot wax.

The ushers will extinguish candles in the Narthex.



CHRISTMAS

60

Silent Night! Holy Night

1 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is
 3 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of

calm, all is bright, Round yon vir - gin
 God, love's pure light Ra - diant beams from

moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so
 thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re -

ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
 deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Closing Prayer

Leader: When all was still and it was midnight, your eternal Word, O Lord, descended from the almighty throne to dwell among us. May we receive him in the peace of forgiven hearts and proclaim your gracious goodwill to all people on earth, for he is God with us, Emmanuel, who lives and reigns with you and the holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen**

Blessing

Leader: May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty- the Father, the Son, + and the Holy Spirit- be upon you and remain with you always.

People: **Amen**



Thank you for joining us this evening to praise our Lord and Savior! Join us again tomorrow!!



12/25	Christmas Day Worship	9:00AM
12/27	Sunday Morning Worship	8/10:30AM
12/31	New Year's Eve Worship	6:30PM