



CHRISTMAS

A SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

JERUSALEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
MORTON GROVE, ILLINOIS

DECEMBER 24, 2011 10:30 P.M.

A service of nine lessons and carols

jerusalem evangelical lutheran church
morton grove, illinois

december 24, 2011 10:30 p.m.



Processional hymn

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising (CW 42)

Please stand for the processional hymn

The cantor will sing the first stanza. The congregation joins in singing stanzas 2-5.

Exhortation and prayer

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 purposes 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:

 ur 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 LORD promises a Savior, the offspring of the woman, who will crush Satan and those who stand against God's people

carol

O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is (CW 40)

cantor – st. 1 congregation – sts. 2-5

second lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to Abraham a family of descendants - too numerous to count – who will inherit God's eternal blessings. These children of Abraham are those who trust in Jesus as the only Savior from sin and death (Jn 8:39,56; Ro 4:16).

carol

I Am So Glad When Christmas Comes (CW 51)

third lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

In the midst of the darkness of sin and unbelief God sends a holy Child to be the Prince of Peace and to reconcile us to God our Father.

carol

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt (CW 54)

fourth lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9

A Branch from the stem of Jesse – King David's father – comes to bring eternal justice and to lead his holy people in holy living, now and forever.

carol

Behold, a Branch Is Growing (CW 47)

fifth lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will be the mother of the eternal Savior King promised for ages.

carol

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (CW 24)

sixth lesson **Matthew 1:18-25**
Jesus is born to save his people from their sins.

carol **Once Again My Heart Rejoices (CW 37)**
cantor – sts. 1,3 congregation – sts. 2, 4-6

seventh lesson **Luke 2:8-20**
The holy angels announce the birth of the newborn King to lowly shepherds, and the shepherds proclaim this wondrous event in holy faith.

carol **On Christmas Night All Christians Sing (CW 52)**

eighth lesson **Matthew 2:1-12**
The Magi come from a distant country to worship the newborn King and to offer him their precious treasures.

carol **See in Yonder Manger Low (CW 58)**
cantor – st. 1 congregation – sts. 2-4

At this time we will light the handheld candles. The ushers will be distributing candlelight to every aisle. The person with the unlit candle should tip his or her candle into the flame of the lit candle. Never tip a lit candle.

Jesus said: “I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12)

please stand

ninth lesson **John 1:1-14**
Though this world by nature spurns the One who has brought all things into being, the Word becomes flesh to reveal the Father’s love in his suffering and cross.

carol **What Child Is This? (CW 67)**

- 1. What Child is this, who laid to rest, On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch and 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. Why lies He in such mean estate, where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through; the cross He'll bear for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary!
3. 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!

Collect

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 good will to all people on earth for you are the God with us, Emmanuel, through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Benediction

May he who by his incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the 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.

Amen.



Recessional hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (CW 61)

1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
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 the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
3. Hail, the heav'nly 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 man no more may die;
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

For those wishing to give an offering, an offering plate will be available at the door after worship.

This service is an adaptation of the traditional Christmas Eve worship held at King's College, Cambridge, England on December 24. The service of lessons and carols was first developed in the late nineteenth century by Archbishop Benson. This service, which has as its focal point the coming of Christ, is characterized by a very simple pattern. It is ordered around Scripture readings that pertain to Christ's coming, followed by songs and prayers.

