

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

+CHRISTMAS EVE + 24 DECEMBER 2024+



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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tgsicms.org

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

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 - ❖ Mr. Jay Rogers, Organist/Music Director
 - ❖ Mr. Jose Lopez, Congregational Chairman
 - ❖ Mr. Greg Griffin, Acolyte

*Welcome to our traditional Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols!
We are delighted you are joining us for this joyous celebration of our Lord's birth.
We hope you will come back again soon to hear His Word of life and forgiveness.*

*The entire service, including the rubrics of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.
The Service of Lessons and Carols begins on page 5.*

We welcome you to join us tomorrow morning for worship at 10am for the Christmas Festival!





Pre-Service Organ Recital

Mr. Jay Rogers, Music Director



I. *Partita on "Savior of the Nations, Come"*

Jacob Weber (b. 1988)

1. Chorale
2. Fanfare
3. Bicinium
4. Ornamentation
5. Trio
6. Fugue

The term "Partita" no precise meaning. Bach used it for his largest keyboard suites and for chorale variations, as Jacob Weber has here. This is one of six partitas commissioned by Concordia Publishing House in 2017 to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. "Savior of the Nations_Come" (LSB 332) is an Advent Chorale, but the melody is also used for the Christmas text "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"(LSB 352) so it has a foot in both seasons.

II. *Noel en duo*

Louis Claude d'Aquin (1694-1772)

d'Aquin was one of the most prominent musicians in Paris during his lifetime. The coveted position at Notre Dame was apparently shared among four organists on a quarterly basis, and d'Aquin was one of them. His sole surviving works are a book of harpsichord pieces, and the twelve Noels, which he played to great acclaim in a series of Sunday recitals during Advent. They are based on French carols which were well known in France at the time, but are not all that familiar today. The Noel en duo is in two parts throughout, as the title implies. d 'Aquin usually gave detailed registrations, but in this case he left the choice of stops up to the player. The registrations used here are typical of the French Baroque organ, based on the instructions given in the other Noels.



III. ***The Snow Lay on the Ground***

Robert J. Powell (b. 1932)

In the early 60s, the L. A. Area chapters of the American Guild of Organists got together to commission a series of new pieces for organ from various composers which were published under the banner “The California Organist.” Most of the composers had Southern California connections, but others were selected because of the excellence of their work. Robert J. Powell has spent the bulk of his career in North Carolina, but has been published extensively by many publishers.

“The Snow Lay on the Ground” is based on a French Carol, and features an energetic countermelody over the tune played mostly in the left hand.

IV. ***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

Wayne Wold (b. 1954)

Wayne Wold served as Music Director at Camp David for many years, where he played for Presidents and other prominent dignitaries. He has produced much interesting music over the years. “O Little Town of Bethlehem” has two common tunes. St. Louis (LSB 361) is better known in the US, while Forest Green, (LSB 362) is more familiar in the Anglican Communion.

Wayne Wold has used both melodies in this wonderful prelude, combining them together in the final section.

V. ***O the Morning Star, How Fair and Bright***

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright” (LSB 395) has become one of the most beloved of Lutheran chorales. Both the text and tune were written by Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608), a Lutheran Pastor who was enduring a plague that was killing many in his congregation. The tune was eventually adapted to a number of other texts. (It occurs a total of five times in LSB.)

Buxtehude has created an extended fantasy on the tune, with many subtle variations. The final section is an elaborate fugue, with rich counterpoint. Unusually for Buxtehude, the pedal is not used until the final phrase.



A Service of Lessons and Carols

Rise and face the Cross for the procession.

Processional Hymn

379 O Come, All Ye Faithful



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!

Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.
Text and tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786
Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

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

Verse

Matthew 1:21

P Alleluia. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

C Alleluia.

Welcome and Bidding Prayer

There will be time for silent prayers after each bid.

P I welcome you, on behalf of The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. We have come together as the family of God, in our Father's presence, to celebrate the great festival of Christmas. In this service which has become a Christmas Eve tradition here at The Good Shepherd, we hear and receive the good news of the birth of Christ and we offer to God our thanksgiving in the joyful singing of carols and in prayer.

In Christian freedom, you may kneel, stand, or sit, as you are able.

Let us pray for the whole Christian Church, that our Lord God would defend her against all the assaults and temptations of the adversary and keep her perpetually on the true foundation, Jesus Christ.

Let us pray all the ministers of the Word, for all vocations in the Church, and for all the people of God.

Let us pray for our catechumens, that our Lord God would open their hearts and the door of His mercy that, having received the remission of all their sins by the washing of regeneration, they may be mindful of their Baptism and evermore be found in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Let us pray for all in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

Let us pray our Lord God that He would deliver the world from all error, take away disease, ward off famine, set free those in bondage, grant health to the sick and a safe journey to all who travel.

Let us pray for all who are outside the Church, that our Lord God would be pleased to deliver them from their error, call them to faith in the true and living God and His only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and gather them into His family, the Church. Let us pray for peace, that we may come to the knowledge of God's holy Word and walk before Him as is fitting for Christians.

Let us pray for our enemies, that God would remember them in mercy and graciously grant them such things as are both needful for them and profitable for their salvation.

Let us pray for the fruits of the earth, that God would send down His blessing upon them and graciously dispose our hearts to enjoy them according to His own good will.

Finally, let us pray for all those things which our Lord would have us ask, saying:

Lord's Prayer

LSB 241

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.

Sit

Reading

Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace

there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Hymn Response

364 Away in a Manger

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the sky _____ looked down where He lay,
I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,

The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

Text (sts. 1-2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt.
Tune: James R. Murray, 1841-1905
Text and tune: Public domain

Reading

Luke 1:26-38

Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel

said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name 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 father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵And 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. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.

³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And 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.

Hymn Response

374 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
 2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
 Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
 He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933
 Tune: Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1582, Griefswald
 Text and tune: Public domain

The Birth of Jesus Christ

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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.

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



Hymn Response

380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.
Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-47
Text and tune: Public domain



Reading

John 1:1-4

The Word Became Flesh

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Hymn Response

368 Angels We Have Heard on High



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



Glo - - - - ri - a



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



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

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.

Text and tune: French

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

Offerings will be collected after service in the back of the church.

During the singing of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" on the facing page, the ushers will go to the chancel and light their candles from the pastor's candle.

They will then light members of the congregation's candles.

Hymn

361 O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-93
 Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908
 Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer

P O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

Rejoice

Hymn

363 Silent Night, Holy Night



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
 Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85
 Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863
 Text and tune: Public domain

You may now extinguish your candles.

The Prayers

P Mercifully hear, O Lord, the prayers of Your people, that, as we rejoice in the birth and first advent of Your Only-begotten Son, so when He comes a second time in majesty, we may receive the reward of eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Glory to God in the Highest!**

P O God, who gladdens us with the yearly remembrance of our redemption, grant that we who now joyfully receive Your Only-begotten Son as our Redeemer may also behold Him without fear when He comes as our Savior and Judge, through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Glory to God in the Highest!**

P Most merciful God, who has given Your eternal Word to be made incarnate of the pure Virgin, grant to Your people grace to put away fleshly desires that so we may be ready for Your visitation; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen. **Glory to God in the Highest!**

The Blessing

P He who by His incarnation gathered into one all earthly things and heavenly things, fill you with His peace and light. The blessing of Almighty God, the Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, be and abide with you, this night and always.

C Amen!

Hymn to Depart

387 Joy to the World



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.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
 Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo BWV 729

J.S. Bach

We are continuing the tradition of concluding the service with Bach's powerful setting of this chorale, which features extended interludes between the lines of the hymn. This was a common practice in the 18th century, and often made the singing somewhat disjointed.

Acknowledgments

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