

# FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod



## Lessons & CAROLS

December 21, 2025

10:30 am

\*livestreamed on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

The format for this morning's Service of Lessons and Carols is based on an annual service used at King's College in Cambridge, England that is broadcast around the world on Christmas Eve. The purpose of such a service, as the opening address to the congregation states, is to relate the "loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child." In other words, the lessons read in the service present us with a "Reader's Digest" of the main message of Scripture: Jesus Christ. May this year's service serve as a catalyst for all of us to ponder more deeply the story of God's love for us in Jesus Christ.

[Rev. Eric J. Edwards](#) † [Rev. Liwei Sui](#) † [Dr. Priscilla Gabriel](#), Director of Parish Music  
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**PRE-SERVICE MUSIC** – *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* (trad. Polish carol)  
Lily England, violin; Sam Poage, clarinet

**WELCOME**

**HYMN OF INVOCATION** – LSB 376 – **Once in Royal David's City**

*Verse 1: Soloists; Verses 2-5: Congregation*



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is  
3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by  
4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His  
5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a  
day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and  
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and  
ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y  
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the  
help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He  
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He  
heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.  
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.  
stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text and tune: Public domain

**INVOCATION**

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

**C** Amen.

## BIDDING PRAYER

**P** Belovèd in Christ, be it this season our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels: in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the shepherds and the wise men adore the Child lying in his Mother's arms.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and in company with the whole Church let us make this place glad with our carols of praise:

But first let us pray for the needs of His whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; within our nation, and within the City of Bloomington:

And let us at this time remember in His name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the loving kindness of the Lord.

Let us also remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which none can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh: and let us pray that we may be counted among that communion of saints, receiving grace to offer unto God reasonable service, living in unity and fellowship with all his people and giving reverence to all that he hath made.

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

## LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

**P** The Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

**C** **Amen.**



# FIRST LESSON – Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

*God promises that the offspring of Eve will bruise the head of the Serpent. This is the first promise in Scripture of the salvation won by Jesus Christ.*



## HYMN – LSB 351 – Creator of the Stars of Night

*Verse 1: Children; Verses 2-3: Congregation*



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,  
2 Thou, griev - ing that the an - cient curse  
3 Thou cam'st the Bride - groom of the bride,



Thy peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing Light:  
Should doom to death a u - ni - verse,  
As drew the world to e - ven - tide,



O Christ, Re - deem - er, save us all  
Hast found the heal - ing, full of grace,  
The spot - less Vic - tim, all di - vine



And hear Thy ser - vants when they call.  
To cure and save our ru - ined race.  
Pro - ceed - ing from a vir - gin shrine. A - men.

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## SECOND LESSON – Genesis 22:15-18

*God promises to faithful Abraham that all nations will be blessed in his offspring. The offspring of Abraham is Jesus Christ, who, like Isaac, is the only Son of the Father and who freely offered himself on the altar of the cross to save the world.*



### HYMN – LSB 338 – Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, Thou long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo-ple to de-liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for-ev-er, Now Thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e-ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a-lone;



Dear de-sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.  
By Thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.

Text and tune: Public domain



## THIRD LESSON – Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*Isaiah prophesies that a child will be born who will establish an eternal kingdom of peace. This child is Jesus Christ, who, being fully God and fully man, has made peace between God and man through His death and resurrection.*



### HYMN – LSB 412 – The People That in Darkness Sat (vv. 1-4)



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious  
2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring  
3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a  
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -



light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In  
na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their  
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All  
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.  
har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.  
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.  
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

Tune and text: Public domain



## FOURTH LESSON – Micah 5:2-4

*Micah prophesies that the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem.*



### HYMN – LSB 361 – O Little Town of Bethlehem (vv. 1 & 4)

*Verse 1: Children; Verse 4: Congregation*



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
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;  
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.  
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.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text and tune: Public domain



## FIFTH LESSON – Luke 1:26-35, 38

*The angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will give birth to the Savior of the world. All of God's promises are beginning to come true!*



### HYMN – LSB 356 – The Angel Gabriel (vv. 1-3)



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!

Tune and text: Public domain



## SIXTH LESSON – Luke 2:1, 3-7

*Against the background of a worldwide census and powerful leaders, the King of the Universe is born in a small town and laid in a manger with the poorest of the poor.*



### HYMN – LSB 364 – Away in a Manger

*Verse 1: Children; Verses 2-3: Congregation*



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.

Tune and text: Public domain



## SEVENTH LESSON – Luke 2:8-16

Angels appear to shepherds to announce the birth of Christ. The appearance of the armies of heaven appearing on earth is a reminder that in Jesus Christ heaven and earth are brought together.



### HYMN – No. 368 – Angels We Have Heard on High

*Verse 1: Children; Verses 2-3: Congregation*



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 and tune: Public domain



## EIGHTH LESSON – Matthew 2:1-11

*Magi from the east come from a great distance to find the newborn Jesus. In presenting Jesus with their gifts, they not only recognize him as the eternal King of the Jews but also worship him as true God.*



### HYMN – LSB 397 – As with Gladness Men of Old (vv. 1-3)



1 As with glad-ness men of old Did the guid-ing star be-hold;  
2 As with joy-ful steps they sped, Sav-ior, to Thy low-ly bed,  
3 As they of-fered gifts most rare At Thy cra-dle, rude and bare,



As with joy they hailed its light, Lead-ing on-ward, beam-ing bright;  
There to bend the knee be-fore Thee, whom heav'n and earth a-dore;  
So may we with ho-ly joy, Pure and free from sin's al-loy,



So, most gra-cious Lord, may we Ev-er-more be led by Thee.  
So may we with will-ing feet Ev-er seek Thy mer-cy seat.  
All our cost-liest trea-sures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'n-ly King.

Tune and text: Public domain



Please rise for the reading of the Gospel.

## NINTH LESSON – John 1:1-4, 14

*St. John reveals the mystery of the Incarnation:  
God has taken on human flesh to raise humanity back to God.*



### HYMN – LSB 384 – Of the Father's Love Begotten (vv. 1, 2, 5)



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -  
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,  
△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that  
Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -  
And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see  
deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face  
min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.



**OFFERING** – *Silent Night* (Franz Grüber)  
Conrad Gabriel, piano

**COLLECT and BLESSING**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive Him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold Him, when He shall come to be our judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** May He who by His Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the ✝ Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**C** **Amen.**



**HYMN TO DEPART – LSB 379 – O Come, All Ye Faithful (vv. 1-3)**



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,



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!



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:

*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!

**POST-SERVICE MUSIC – *Now Sing We, Now Rejoice* (arr. Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow)  
Nate Poage, trumpet**



Today's flowers are given to the glory of God in celebration  
of **Hazel Shettlesworth's 9<sup>th</sup> birthday TODAY!**

# Serving in Worship

Instrumentalists.....Lily England, Conrad Gabriel, Jonah Grimes, Noah Grimes,  
Nia Johnson, Nate Poage, Sam Poage, Ben Williams, Nick Williams  
Soloists.....Rocco Battaglia, Leopold Churchill, Windsor Churchill,  
Sarabeth Faulkner, Conrad Gabriel, Vivien Woodworth  
Cantor.....Dr. Priscilla Gabriel  
Readers.....Members of FLY, Confirmation, and Sunday School

# Sunday School Staff

Sunday School Superintendent.....Megan DeMoss  
Parents & Two's..... Sarah Pape, Stephanie Yoder  
3 & 4 Year Olds.....Vicky Hillenburg, Erin Miller, Amanda & Ryan Shettlesworth  
5 Year Olds & Kindergarten.....Autumn Battaglia, Cassie Churchill, Samantha Schaefer  
Grades 1 & 2..... Alyson McGhie, Tim Paul  
Grades 3 & 4..... Jean Scott, Lauren Gaskins, Alan & Janet Schaefer  
Grades 5 & 6.....Paul & Emilia Brunner, John & Kim Pitcher, Tom Waggoner  
Youth.....Tatiana Huss, Chastin Baker



## Tuesday, December 23

10am-8pm [Salvation Army Bell-ringing](#) Sign up at [faithbtown.org](http://faithbtown.org) – or contact *Janet Hitzeman*.



## Wednesday, December 24

### 3:00pm Luminary lighting

Bundle up and come help place and light our annual luminaries along our driveway and around the parking lot. This is a 1-hour (or less) service opportunity.

To help this year, meet at the garage at the back of the parking lot at **3pm on Christmas Eve**. Please **bring a long lighter** if possible. Contact Dave Ebeling (812-322-6503) if you know you will be there (but walk-ins are welcome!)



## Mitten Tree

Our annual in-gathering of warm, winter accessories for the Salvation Army continues **through Sunday, January 4**.

Help decorate the tree in the narthex with **mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, etc.** Items for both **children and adults** will be gladly received. Thank you!





## Advent & Christmas

**Christmas Eve** – 5pm\* & 7pm  
**Candlelight Worship**

*(special instrumental music in the narthex following the first service and before the second)*

**Christmas Day** – 10am\*  
**Worship** with Holy Communion

**New Year's Eve** – 5pm\*  
**Worship** with Holy Communion



## Epiphany season – **Note the changes**

**Sunday, January 4** – Epiphany (observed)  
8am & 10:30am\* only (**NO 5pm**)

**Sunday, January 11** – Baptism of our Lord  
8am & 10:30am\* only (**NO 5pm**)

**Sunday, January 18**  
Regular worship **schedule resumes** (8am & 10:30am\* AND 5pm)

\* Service will also be **livestreamed** on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).  
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