

# A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

## Christmas Eve December 24, 2025

Note: In preparation for this service, you may choose to use an Advent wreath. The Advent wreath has four candles around its circumference. Three of them are blue or purple. One is rose-colored. A white candle is in the middle of the wreath. On Christmas Eve and continuing for the entire Christmas season we light all the candles on the Advent wreath.

### Once in Royal David's City

Lutheran Service Book 376, Lutheran Worship 58, The Lutheran Hymnal n/a



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



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



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



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.

5 Not in that poor, lowly stable  
With the oxen standing by  
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars His children, crowned,  
All in white, His praise will sound!

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**L** In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### The Christmas Eve Bidding Prayer

**L** Beloved in Christ, may it be our care and delight this Christmas Eve to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience to the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this holy house of God 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; for unity and brotherhood within the Church He came to build, and especially in our nation, our state and our community. And because this of all things would rejoice His heart, 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 those that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all who do not know the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one.

**L** Lord in Your mercy,

**C** Hear our prayer.

**L** These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has 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.

**L** May the Almighty God bless us with His grace. May Christ, the King of Angels, give us the joys of everlasting life and bring us all unto the fellowship with all the company of heaven.

**C** Amen

## Psalm for Christmas Eve: Psalm 110:1-4

- L** <sup>1</sup>The Lord says to my Lord: Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”
- G** <sup>2</sup>**The Lord sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies!**
- L** <sup>3</sup>Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments;  
from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.
- G** <sup>4</sup>**The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, “You are a priest forever  
after the order of Melchizedek.”**

### Devotional Thoughts:

Many homes with children have an Elf on the Shelf. Our children grew up with the Cheese Ball Fairy.

Living in a home where dad is a pastor and mom sings in the choir means that the children attend all of the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Each year, we would return home from our second Christmas Eve service and find a cheese ball at our front door! It was the perfect addition to our tradition of snacking and opening gifts on Christmas Eve.

This happened year after year. Soon our children had a name for this mysterious Christmas Eve visitor and so the Cheese Ball Fairy was born.

When our children were old enough, they would attend the first Christmas Eve service and then return home while mom and dad participated in the second service. They developed the tradition of regularly checking the front step to see if the Cheese Ball Fairy had made her annual visit. Without fail, on one of those expeditions, a cheese ball would magically appear! This continued every Christmas Eve until just a few years ago when our now adult children encountered the Cheese Ball Fairy face to face!

Children love mysteries at Christmas. The wonder of a visit from Old St. Nick, his little spy on a shelf, and a red-nosed reindeer are all part of this mysterious season. And let us not forget the most amazingly marvelous visitor of all, the Cheese Ball Fairy!

While children and adults love mysteries, in a sense, Christmas is not about mystery. It is about pulling back the curtain to reveal the truth of God’s love for all.

The first Christmas did not have a Cheese Ball Fairy. It was filled with angels! Gabriel visited Zachariah and Mary. The Angel of the Lord visited Joseph and the shepherds. Angels are messengers from God. God sent them so that everyone would know that Jesus was coming to save us from sin, death, and the devil. He did not want it to be a secret. Let’s review a few of their messages:

The angel said to Joseph:

“Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:20-21).

The angel said to Mary:

“Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 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, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” (Luke 1:18-33).

The angel said to the shepherds:

“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2:10-12).

Shepherds heard the multitude of the heavenly host say,

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:14 KJV).

## Collect for Christmas Eve

**L** O God, because you once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light, grant that we who have known the mystery of that Light here on earth may come to the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**G** Amen.

## Lesson One: Genesis 3:8-15; 17-19

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and announces in the Garden of Eden that the **Seed of the woman** (Christ) would destroy Satan and his power.*

<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>17</sup> And to Adam he said,  
"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife  
and have eaten of the tree  
of which I commanded you,  
'You shall not eat of it,'  
cursed is the ground because of you;  
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

<sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;  
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

<sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face  
you shall eat bread,  
till you return to the ground,  
for out of it you were taken;  
for you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return."

**L** This is the Word of the Lord

**G** Thanks be to God.

# Great and Mighty Wonder

Lutheran Service Book 383, Lutheran Worship 51, The Lutheran Hymnal 76



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:  
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,  
3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,  
4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,  
5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!  
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.  
Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.  
The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.  
And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

*Refrain*



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

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## Lesson Two: Genesis 22:15-18

*God promises to faithful Abraham that through his descendants - and eventually the Messiah - all the nations of the earth will be blessed with salvation.*

<sup>15</sup>And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup>and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, <sup>18</sup>and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

**L** This is the Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Let Our Gladness Have No End

Lutheran Service Book 381, Lutheran Worship 69, The Lutheran Hymnal 86



1 Let our glad - ness have no end, al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Proph - e - sies in days of old, al - le - lu - ia!  
3 See, the love - liest bloom - ing rose, al - le - lu - ia!  
4 In - to flesh is made the Word, al - le - lu - ia!



For to earth did Christ de - scend, al - le - lu - ia!  
God has sent Him as fore - told, al - le - lu - ia!  
From the branch of Jes - se grows, al - le - lu - ia!  
He, our ref - uge and our Lord, al - le - lu - ia!

*Refrain*



On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save



us; Christ, His Son, to save us.

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### Lesson Three: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*The birth and kingdom of Christ are foretold by the prophet.*

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord

**G** Thanks be to God.

## It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Lutheran Service Book 366, Lutheran Worship 37, The Lutheran Hymnal 85



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo - rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un - furled,  
3 All you, be - neath your heav - y load, By care and guilt bent low,  
4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
And still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world.  
Who toil a - long a drea - ry way With pain - ful steps and slow:  
When down in - to the cir - cling years Came Christ as was fore - told.



"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all - gra - cious king."  
A - bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
Look up, for gold - en is the hour, Come swift - ly on the wing,  
His word of peace shall to the earth God's an - cient prom - ise bring,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.  
And ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.  
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an - gels sing.  
And all who take this gift will hear The song the an - gels sing.

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### Lesson Four: Micah 5:2-4

*The prophet foretells the glory of little Bethlehem, birthplace of Jesus.*

<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.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God.

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

Lutheran Service Book 361, Lutheran Worship 60, The Lutheran Hymnal 647



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!

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### Lesson Five: Luke 1:26-35, 38

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

<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>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.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Lutheran Service Book 380, Lutheran Worship 49, The Lutheran Hymnal 94



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!”

## Lesson Six : Luke 2:1-7 (King James Version)

*St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus. We read in unison.*

<sup>1</sup>And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

<sup>2</sup>(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

<sup>3</sup>And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

<sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

<sup>5</sup>To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

<sup>6</sup>And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

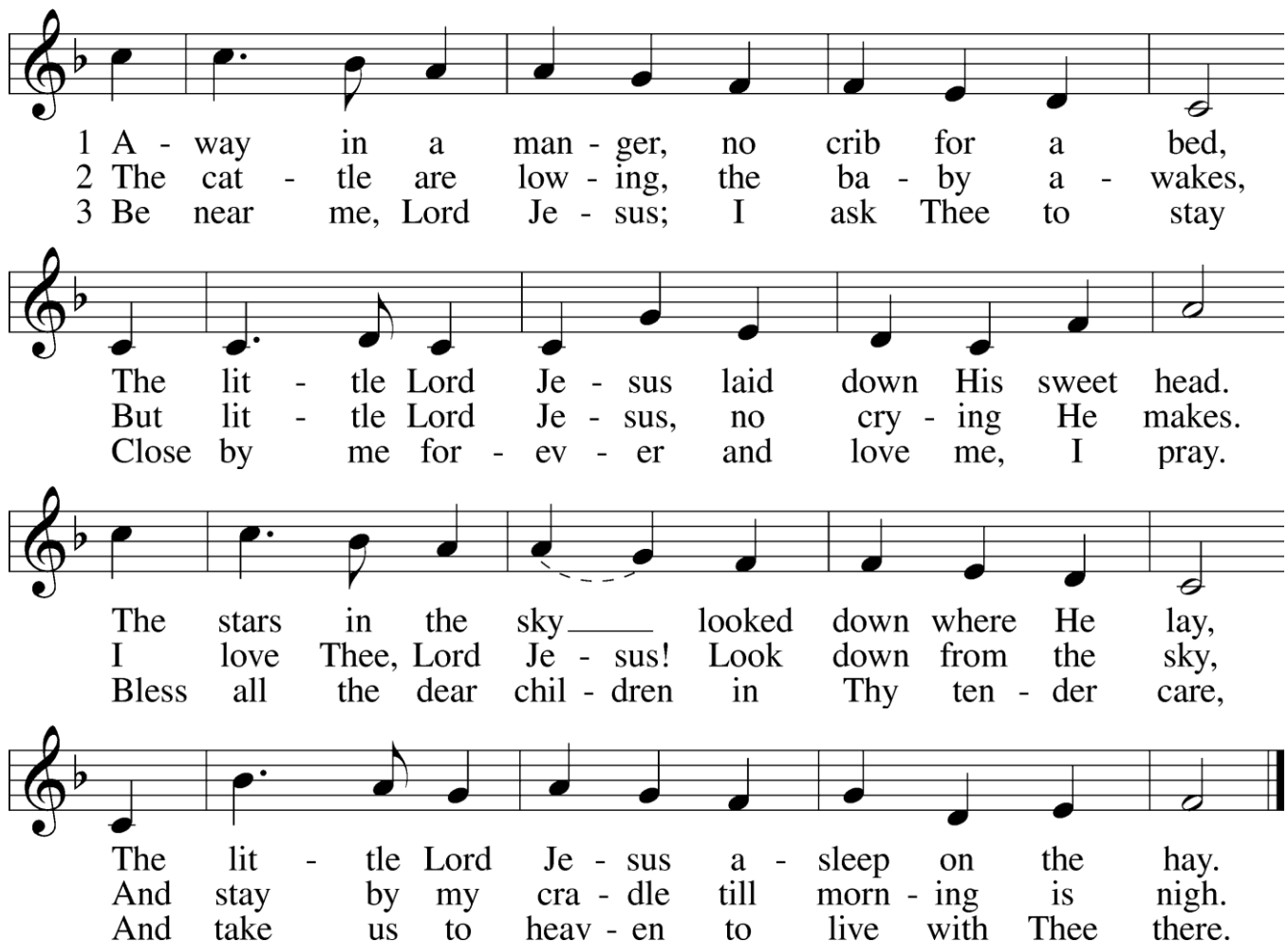
<sup>7</sup>And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord

**G** Thanks be to God.

### Away in a Manger

Lutheran Service Book 364, Lutheran Worship 64, The Lutheran Hymnal n/a



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 night.  
And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

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## Lesson Seven: Luke 2:8-16 (King James Version)

*The shepherds go to the manger. We read in unison.*

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

<sup>9</sup> And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

<sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

<sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, good will toward men.

<sup>15</sup> And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

<sup>16</sup> And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Angels We Have Heard on High

Lutheran Service Book 368, Lutheran Worship 55, The Lutheran Hymnal n/a



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 - - -



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## Lesson Eight: Matthew 2:1-12

*The Wise Men are led by the star of Jesus.*

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.””

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” <sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Joy to the World

Lutheran Service Book 387, Lutheran Worship 53, The Lutheran Hymnal 87



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.

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## Lesson Nine: John 1:1-14

*St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord

**G** Thanks be to God.

## Silent Night, Holy Night

Lutheran Service Book 363, Lutheran Worship 68, The Lutheran Hymnal 646



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight; Glo - ries  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light Ra - dant



vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly In-fant, so ten-der and mild,  
stream from heav-en a - far, Heav'n-ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
beams from Thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re-deem - ing grace,



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

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

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**L** The Lord be with you.

**C** and with your spirit.

**L** 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.

### The Benedicamus and Blessing

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**L** Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with 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

**L** Rejoice and be glad! For Christ is born!

**C** Our joy and gladness have no end!

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

Lutheran Service Book 379, Lutheran Worship 41, The Lutheran Hymnal 102



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!

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### Service Notes:

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

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