

# The Service of “Nine Lessons and Carols”



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

239 Frank Street

Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503

December 24, 2020 ~ 7:00 p.m.



*It is requested, out of respect for the Word of God and the music, that silence be observed at the beginning of the pre-service music and that electronic devices be silenced.*

Pre-Service:

- "Prepare the Royal Highway" .....arr. Sondra K. Tucker
- "Comfort, Comfort These My People" .....arr. Tucker
- "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" .....arr. Samuel Stokes
- "O Come All Ye Faithful" .....arr. Stokes
- "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing" .....arr. Martha Lynn Thompson
- "O Little Town of Bethlehem" .....arr. Frances L. Callahan
- "O Come, All Ye Shepherds" .....arr. Thompson
- "Joy to the World" .....attr. to G. F. Handel

## The Service of "Nine Lessons and Carols"

*Please stand and face the processional cross as it enters.*

**Processional Hymn: "Once in Royal David's City".....LSB #376 (Solo vs. 1 ~ Cong: vs. 2-5)**

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!

**Bidding Prayer ~ 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.**



*Please be seated.*

*Carol: "Ding, Dong, Merrily on High" .....(Children's Kantorei)  
 Ding dong merrily on high, In heav'n the bells are ringing: Ding dong! Verily the sky Is riv'n with angel singing.  
 Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

*E'en so here below, below, Let steeple bells be swungen, And "I-o, i-o, i-o!" By priest and people sungen.  
 Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

*Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers; May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers.  
 Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!*

**First Reading ~ Genesis 3:8-19 ~ Man's fall into sin and the first promise of a Savior.**

<sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, Where *are* you?" <sup>10</sup> So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup> And He said, "Who told you that you *were* naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" <sup>12</sup> Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup> And the LORD God said to the woman, "What *is* this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup> So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, You *are* cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." <sup>16</sup> To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire *shall be* for your husband, And he shall rule over you." Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': " Cursed *is* the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat *of* it All the days of your life. <sup>8</sup> Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. <sup>19</sup> In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you *are*, And to dust you shall return."

*Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Cong: Thanks be to God!**

**Congregation Hymn: "The Tree of Life".....LSB #561**  
*(Adult Kantorei verse 1)*

1 The tree of life with ev - 'ry good In E - den's  
 2 The still - ness of that sa - cred grove Was bro - ken,  
 3 What mer - cy God showed to our race, A plan of  
 4 Now from that tree of Je - sus' shame Flows life e -

ho - ly or - chard stood, And of its fruit so pure and  
 as the ser - pent strove With tempt - ing voice Eve to be -  
 res - cue by His grace: In send - ing One from wom - an's  
 ter - nal in His name; For all who trust and will be -

sweet God let the man and wom-an eat. Yet in this  
 guile And Ad-am too by sin de-file. O day of  
 seed, The One to fill our great-est need— For on a  
 lieve, Sal-va-tion's liv-ing fruit re-ceive. And of this

gar-den al-so grew An-oth-er tree, of which they  
 sad-ness when the breath Of fear and dark-ness, doubt and  
 tree up-lift-ed high His on-ly Son for sin would  
 fruit so pure and sweet The Lord in-vites the world to

knew; Its love-ly limbs with fruit a-  
 death, Its aw-ful poi-son first dis-  
 die, Would drink the cup of scorn and  
 eat, To find with-in this cross of

dorned A-gainst whose eat-ing God had warned.  
 played With-in the world so new-ly made.  
 dread To crush the an-cient ser-pent's head!  
 wood The tree of life with ev-'ry good.

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**Second Reading ~ God promised that blessing would come through Abraham's offspring.**

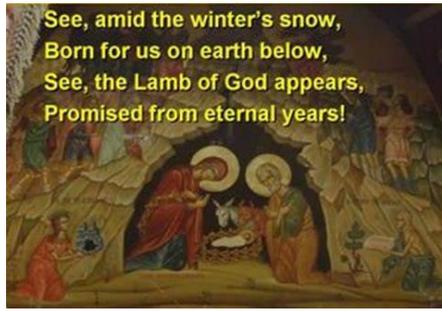
**Genesis 22:9-18**

<sup>9</sup> Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. <sup>10</sup> And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. <sup>11</sup> But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." <sup>12</sup> And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." <sup>13</sup> Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup> And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided." <sup>15</sup> Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second

time out of heaven, <sup>16</sup> and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son— <sup>17</sup> blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. <sup>18</sup> In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

*Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Cong: Thanks be to God!**



Congregational Hymn: “See Amid the Winter's Snow”.....LSB # 373  
 (Adult Kantorei stanza 3)

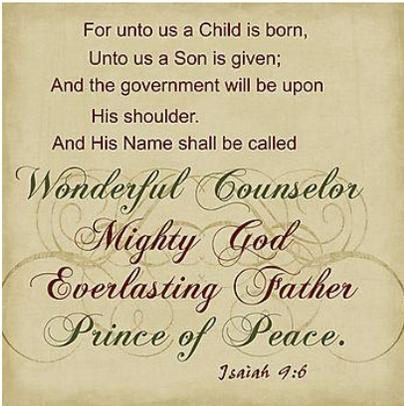
1 See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,  
 2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,  
 3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,  
 4 Teach, O teach us, ho - ly Child, By Thy face so meek and mild,

See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.  
 He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.  
 Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!  
 Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.

*Refrain*  
 Hail, O ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!

Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”

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**Third Reading** ~ *Isaiah prophesies the birth of the Christ-child who would reign as King.*

**Isaiah 9:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless the gloom *will not be* upon her who *is* distressed, As when at first He lightly esteemed The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, And afterward more heavily oppressed *her*, *By* the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, In Galilee of the Gentiles. <sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation *And* increased its joy; They rejoice before You According to the joy of harvest, As *men* rejoice when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup> For You have broken the yoke of his burden And the staff of his shoulder, The rod of his oppressor, As in the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup> For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle, And garments rolled in blood, Will be used for burning *and* fuel of fire. <sup>6</sup> For unto us a Child is born,

Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

*Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Cong: Thanks be to God!**

Hymn: "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" .....LSB #386



1 Now sing we, now re - joice,      Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
 2 Come from on high to me;      I can - not rise to Thee.  
 3 Now through His Son doth shine      The Fa - ther's grace di - vine.  
 4 Oh, where shall joy be found?      Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth      Poor in a man - ger lies;  
 Cheer my wea - ried spir - it,      O pure and ho - ly Child;  
 Death was reign - ing o'er us      Through sin and van - i - ty  
 Where the an - gels sing - ing      With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth      The sun in yon - der skies.  
 Through Thy grace and mer - it,      Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,  
 Till He o - pened for us      A bright e - ter - ni - ty.  
 Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing      In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art!      Thou my Sav - ior art!  
 Draw me un - to Thee!      Draw me un - to Thee!  
 May we praise Him there!      May we praise Him there!  
 Oh, that we were there!      Oh, that we were there!

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**Fourth Reading ~ Isaiah prophesies peace through the "Branch of Jesse."**

**Isaiah 11:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup> His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; <sup>4</sup> But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist. <sup>6</sup> "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. <sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea. <sup>10</sup> " And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious."

*Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord*

**Cong: Thanks be to God!**



Congregational Hymn: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming".....LSB #359

(Adult Kantorei stanza 3)



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have  
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er  
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -  
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the  
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to  
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and  
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.  
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.  
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

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**Fifth Reading ~ The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.**

**Luke 1:26-38**

<sup>26</sup> Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by 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. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!" <sup>29</sup> But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. <sup>30</sup> Then 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 bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give 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> Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered and said to her, "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.* <sup>36</sup> Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For with God nothing will be impossible." <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

*Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Cong: Thanks be to God!**

**Congregation Hymn: "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came".....LSB #356**

*(Children's Kantorei stanza 1)*

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;  
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

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.  
 In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,

"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."  
 And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

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

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**Sixth Reading: Matthew 1:18-25 ~ St. Matthew tells of the birth of Christ.**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “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. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.



**Congregational Hymn: “O Joseph, Son of David”.....Text by: Nathan Sherrill**

1. O Jo - seph, Son of Da - vid turn not your ear from me.  
 2. The Ho - ly Spir - it act - ed out His sanc - ti - fy - ing grace.  
 3. A - las, how it de - press - es Cre - a - tor God Most High,  
 4. So Jo - seph ran, “step - fa - ther now,” to Mar - y full of fear.  
 5. O mark it well who strug - gle with young chil - dren on the earth,

I know that you are pon - der - ing of Mar - y qui - et - ly.  
 Pre - par - ing for this Child of God a dark and ho - ly place.  
 When sin - ners turn from lit - tle babes and leave them lone to die!  
 Held tight her hands and said to her, “My wife, my love most dear!  
 God has His way of mov - ing us from sor - row un - to mirth.

But God sent me to bring to you a word of peace this night.  
 Then fear - ful - ly and won - der - ful - ly God be - gan His work.  
 Now lis - ten here young car - pen - ter and be a mo - del hence,  
 God sent His an - gel in the night from an - ger me to win,  
 Let Jo - seph your ex - am - ple be that you need not de - spair,

For rest - ing in her womb their lies His Son, the Lord of Life!  
 Of knit - ting there, in flesh and bone, the Sav - ior of the earth!  
 You go to her! Speak for that Child! The Fa - ther, rep - re - sent!  
 Your womb con - tains the Son of God to save us from our sins!  
 This “un - planned” child, Im - man - u - el, was gift be - yond com - pare!



**Seventh Reading ~ St. Luke tells of the birth of Christ**  
**Luke 2:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup> So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

*Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Cong: Thanks be to God!**

*Adult Kantorei: "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come".....Bach/Leavitt*

- 1            *"From heav'n above to earth I come To bear good news to ev'ry home;  
                  Glad tidings of great joy I bring, Whereof I now will say and sing:*
- 2            *"To you this night is born a child Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
                  This little child of lowly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.*





**Eighth Reading ~ The shepherds go to the manger.**

**Luke 2:8-20**

<sup>8</sup> Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. <sup>10</sup> Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, 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, goodwill toward men!” <sup>15</sup> So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> Now when they had seen *Him*, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. <sup>18</sup> And all those who heard *it* marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. <sup>19</sup>

But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart. <sup>20</sup> Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

*Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Cong: Thanks be to God!**

**Congregational Hymn: “Angels We Have Heard on High”.....LSB #368**

*(Children’s Kantorei verse 1; Adult Kantorei verse 2; Congregation verse 3)*



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.

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Congregation Hymn: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”.....LSB #380

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.

*Refrain*  
 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King!”

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Please stand for the **Ninth Reading** ~ St. John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation.

**John 1:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>The same was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made by 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>And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. <sup>8</sup>He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. <sup>9</sup>That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. <sup>11</sup>He came unto his own, and his own received him not. <sup>12</sup>But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: <sup>13</sup>Which 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 was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

*Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Cong: Thanks be to God!**

Congregational Hymn: “All My Heart Again Rejoices”.....LSB #360



1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es As I hear Far and near  
 2 Hear! The Con - quer - or has spo - ken: “Now the foe, Sin and woe,  
 3 Should we fear our God’s dis - plea - sure, Who, to save, Free - ly gave  
 4 See the Lamb, our sin once tak - ing To the cross, Suf - f’ring loss,



Sweet - est an - gel voic - es. “Christ is born!” their choirs are sing - ing  
 Death and hell are bro - ken!” God is man, man to de - liv - er,  
 His most pre - cious trea - sure? To re - deem us He has giv - en  
 Full a - tone - ment mak - ing. For our life His own He ten - ders,



Till the air Ev - ’ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.  
 And the Son Now is one With our blood for - ev - er.  
 His own Son From the throne Of His might in heav - en.  
 And His grace All our race Fit for glo - ry ren - ders.

5 Softly from His lowly manger Jesus calls One and all,  
 “You are safe from danger. Children, from the sins that grieve you  
 You are freed; All you need I will surely give you.”

6 Come, then, banish all your sadness! One and all,  
 Great and small, Come with songs of gladness.  
 We shall live with Him forever There on high In that joy Which will vanish never.

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Homily ~ “Joy Has Come to the World” ~ Luke 2:11-20

Offering ~ (Adult Kantorei) ~ “Shepherds Come A-Running” .....Arr. Henry Gerike

*Shepherds, come a-running now to Bethlehem;  
 See the new-born King, the branch of Jesse’s stem.  
 Glory to God in heaven, Glory to God in heaven!  
 Peace on earth, Peace on earth!*

*Angel voices sing the message from the sky:  
 Now to you is born the Savior from on high.  
 Glory to God in heaven, Glory to God in heaven!  
 Peace on earth, Peace on earth!*

*Bowing low, we worship Christ our Savior King!  
 Thankful hearts with joy eternal gladly sing:  
 Glory to God in heaven, Glory to God in heaven!  
 Peace on earth, Peace on earth!*



**Prayers and Blessing of the Crèche**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Cong: Amen.**

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, for us men and for our salvation our Lord Jesus Christ came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man, thus fulfilling the word of the prophet Isaiah, “a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.” Let his crèche remind us that the Lord Jesus came into our flesh and is truly our Savior.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

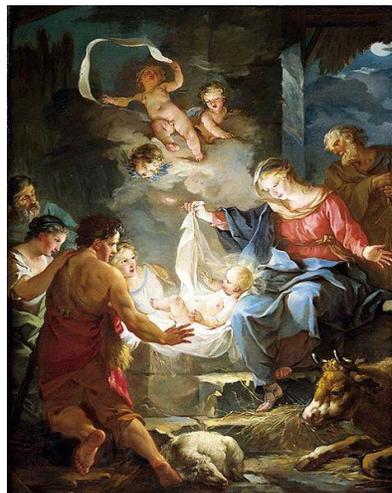
**Cong: who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**Cong: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, on this night You caused Your only-begotten Son to be born of the blessed virgin Mary for our salvation. Bless this crèche, which shows the wonders of that sacred birth, that all who behold it may ponder and adore the mystery of His holy incarnation and may joyfully partake in His divine grace unto life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Cong: Amen.**



**Concluding Collects ~ Benediction**

**Closing Hymn: “Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising”.....LSB #375**

Musical notation for the hymn, consisting of three staves of treble clef music with lyrics underneath.

1 Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the  
 2 Christ, from heav'n to us descend-ing And in  
 3 Ja - cob's star in all its splen - dor Beams with  
 4 From the bond - age that op - pressed us, From sin's

Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing His love a -  
 love our race be - friend - ing; In our need His help ex -  
 com - fort sweet and ten - der, Forc - ing Sa - tan to sur -  
 fet - ters that pos - sessed us, From the grief that sore dis -

maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.  
 tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.  
 ren - der, Break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.  
 tressed us, We, the cap - tives, now are free.

5 Oh, the joy beyond expressing When by faith we grasp this blessing,  
 And to You we come confessing That Your love has set us free.

6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us, From Your lowly manger cheer us,  
 Gently lead us and be near us Till we join Your choir above.

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*Please be seated. The congregation will be dismissed by the ushers.*

**Postlude: "Toccata in F-Major" .....Charles Marie Widor**



Pastor: Rev. Nathan Sherrill  
 Associate Pastor: Rev. Timothy Frank  
 Director of Music: Dr. J Gordon Christensen  
 Trumpeters: John Timm, Pastor Frank  
 Hand Bell Director: Rev. James Tews  
 Bells: St. Paul's English Handbell Choir  
 Adult Kantorei: Rev. Timothy Frank, Julie Moreno,  
 Lisa Timm, John Timm  
 Children's Kantorei: The Johnson Family Kantorei  
 Acolyte: Sam Raymond  
 Crucifer: Max Raymond



*St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
*St. Paul's Lutheran Early Childhood Center*  
*St. Paul's Music Conservatory*  
*Two Locations*  
*One Word*

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod/[www.stpaulscouncilbluffs.org](http://www.stpaulscouncilbluffs.org)

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The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's College after experience as an army chaplain. The music was then directed by Arthur Henry Mann, Organist 1876–1929. The choir included sixteen trebles as laid down in King Henry VI's statutes, but until 1927 the men's voices were provided partly by Choral Scholars and partly by older Lay Clerks, and not, as now, by fourteen undergraduates.

A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons, and from that date the service has always begun with the hymn 'Once in royal David's city'. In almost every year some carols have been changed and some new ones introduced by successive organists. The backbone of the service, the lessons and the prayers, has remained virtually unchanged.

The original service was, in fact, adapted from an Order drawn up by E.W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the wooden shed, which then served as his cathedral in Truro, at 10 pm on Christmas Eve 1880.

Almost immediately other churches adapted the service for their own use. A wider frame began to grow when the service was first broadcast in 1928 and, with the exception of 1930, it has been broadcast annually, even during the Second World War, when the ancient glass (and also all heat) had been removed from the Chapel and the name of King's could not be broadcast for security reasons. Sometime in the early 1930s the BBC began broadcasting the service on overseas programs. Today it is estimated that there are millions of listeners worldwide.

In these and other ways the service has become public property. From time to time the College receives copies of services held, for example, in the West Indies or the Far East and these show how widely the tradition has spread. The broadcasts, too, have become part of Christmas for many far from Cambridge.

Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service, as Dean Milner-White pointed out, derive from the lessons and not the music. 'The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God ...' seen 'through the windows and words of the Bible'. Local interests appear, as they do here, in the bidding prayer, and personal circumstances give point to different parts of the service. Many of those who took part in the first service must have recalled those killed in the Great War when it came to the famous passage 'all those who rejoice with us but on another shore and in a greater light'. The center of the service is still found by those who 'go in heart and mind' and who consent to follow where the story leads, that is, to the Christ-Child born in Bethlehem and placed in a manger.

St. Paul's is one congregation that has appreciated the service of Nine Lessons and Carols for many years now and has used it as a wonderful vehicle for the presentation of the Gospel on Christmas Eve.