

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
**10:00 PM December 24, 2023**  
**Immanuel Lutheran Church**

## **A Christmas Service of Nine Lessons and Carols**

### **Opening Verses**

LSB 285

**L** O Lord, open my lips,

**C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.

**L** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### **First Lesson**

Genesis 3:8–15

<sup>8</sup>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."

### **LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK CAROL (LSB)**

#### **384 OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN, Stanzas 1-3**

### **Second Lesson**

Genesis 22:15–18

<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.”

**LSB 377 ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT ALL CHRISTIANS SING** sts.  
1–2

**Third Lesson**

Isaiah 9:2, 6–7; 60:1-6

<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.

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.

<sup>3</sup>And nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes all around, and see;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from afar,  
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.

<sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and exult,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

## **LSB 412 THE PEOPLE THAT IN DARKNESS SAT** sts. 1, 3–4

### **Fourth Lesson**

Micah 5:2–4

<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.

## **LSB 376 ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY stanza 1,2,5**

### **Fifth Lesson**

Luke 1:26–35, 38

<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.

## **LSB 356 THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME** sts. 1–3

### **Sixth Lesson**

Matthew 1:18–25

<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.

## **LSB 358 FROM HEAVEN ABOVE TO EARTH I COME**

Sts. 1-3

### **Seventh Lesson**

Luke 2:8-16

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

<sup>15</sup>When 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.” <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

## **LSB 380 HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING**

sts. 1-2

### **Eighth Lesson**

Matthew 2:1–12

<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.

## **LSB 370 WHAT CHILD IS THIS**

### **Ninth Lesson**

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>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.

## **HYMN 364 AWAY IN A MANGER**

## SERMON: REIGN

### GATHERING OF THE OFFERING TO THE CHRIST CHILD

*Offering may be given in the plate, by mail, or using Vanco  
Giving Plus available at [immanuelaltamont.org](http://immanuelaltamont.org).*

(Stand)

#### Kyrie

LSB 285

- L** O Lord,  
**C** have mercy.  
**L** O Christ,  
**C** have mercy.  
**L** O Lord,  
**C** have mercy.

#### The 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.

#### VERSICLES

LSB 286

- L** Hear my prayer, O Lord;  
**C** let my cry come to You.  
**L** In the day of my trouble I call upon You,  
**C** for You answer me.  
**L** Hide Your face from my sins,  
**C** and blot out all my iniquities.  
**L** Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
**C** and renew a right spirit within me.  
**L** Cast me not away from Your presence,  
**C** and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.  
**L** Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
**C** and uphold me with a willing spirit.  
**L** Because Your steadfast love is better than life,  
**C** my lips will praise You.

- L** For You have been my help,  
**C** **and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy.**  
**L** Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth;  
**C** **unite my heart to fear Your name.**  
**L** I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,  
**C** **and I will glorify Your name forever.**  
**L** May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You.  
**C** **May those who love Your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"**  
**L** Save Your people and bless Your heritage!  
**C** **Be their shepherd and carry them forever.**  
**L** Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;  
**C** **listen to my plea for grace.**

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

- L** Let us pray.  
 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.**

## ADDITIONAL COLLECTS

- C** **Amen.**

## THE LIGHT IS PASSED

*(The people light their candles from the acolyte's candle, passing the light to the person beside. Be careful with hot wax. Do not tilt a lighted candle. Parents must supervise children with lit candles. Return candles to the ushers as you leave.)*

## LSB 363 SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

sts. 1–3

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

**1. Silent night, holy night!**  
**All is calm, all is bright**  
**Round yon virgin mother and child.**  
**Holy Infant, so tender and mild,**  
**Sleep in heavenly peace,**  
**Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**2 Silent night, holy night!**  
**Shepherds quake at the sight;**  
**Glories stream from heaven afar,**  
**Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!**  
**Christ, the Savior, is born!**  
**Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**3 Silent night, holy night!**  
**Son of God, love's pure light**  
**Radiant beams from Thy holy face**  
**With the dawn of redeeming grace,**  
**Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,**  
**Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

Text: Public domain

## **BENEDICAMUS**

LSB 287

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **BLESSING**

LSB 287

**L** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**C** Amen.

## **POSTLUDE AND DISMISSAL**

**Gift bags are at the exits for the children.**

### *Christmas Schedule:*

*Christmas Day Eucharist Service: 9:00 AM*

*Saturday, December 30, 6:00 PM*

*New Year's Eve (Sunday) 9:00 AM*

*New Year's Day (Monday) 9:00 AM*

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS** Responsive Prayer 2 from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2020 Concordia Publishing House.