

A Service of Lessons & Carols

Northwest Washington Synod / ELCA



✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

arr. by Lloyd Larson

David Horton, piano (Trinity Lutheran, Lynnwood) & Jim Ginn, organ (Seattle First Baptist)

WELCOME

The angel said to [the shepherds], “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11). As we gather, we hear again the good news the angels proclaimed: God has come for all people through the birth of the one named Jesus. Through Bethlehem’s manger God comes into the chaos, messiness, and vulnerability of the world. In all things and at all times, we rejoice that God comes to save us and reigns in love. We come to adore Jesus who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

CAROL

Silent Night

Franz Gruber; arr. by Eve C. Maily

Charlie Lee, cello & Jay Choe, violin (Seattle Covenant Community Fellowship)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God’s forgiveness, grace, and love.

Silence is kept for reflection

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our lack of faith and trust.

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

Forgive our neglect of the poor.

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

With great joy the angels proclaimed, “Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

In ✠ Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God’s forgiveness is good news of great joy!

Amen.

CAROL

Joy to the World

Isaac Watts; arr. by Lowell Mason

Nathan Jenson & the SJU Virtual Choir (St. John United Lutheran, Seattle)

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who is Savior and Lord,
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation.
Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

CAROL

What Child is This?

William Chatterton Dix

Mei Le Smith, violin (Queen Anne Lutheran, Seattle); Karen Mathews, piano and Jon Byers,
guitar/percussion (Our Savior's Lutheran, Everett)

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:10- 62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for God has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
God has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

CAROL

Light of the Stable

Elizabeth & Steve Rhymer

Deb & Pete Johnson, piano & vocals; Rick Steves, congas; Chang Oversvee-Choi, guitar (Trinity Lutheran, Lynnwood)

PSALM 148

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise the Lord in the heights!

Praise the Lord, all the angels;

praise the Lord, all the host!

raise the lord, sun and moon;

praise the Lord, all you shining stars!

Praise the Lord, you highest heavens,

and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for the Lord commanded and they were created.

God established them for ever and ever;

God fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the Lord from the earth,

you sea monsters and all deeps,

fire and hail, snow and frost,

stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle,

creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,

princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike,

old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord,

for God's name alone is exalted;

the Lord's glory is above earth and heaven.

God has raised up a horn for all people,

praise for all the faithful,

for the people of Israel who are close to God.

Praise the Lord!

CAROL

Away in a Manger

William J. Kirkpatrick

Hazel Baker (First Lutheran, Bothell)

SECOND LESSON

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent God's son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of the Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer enslaved but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

CAROL

Hark! The Herold Angels Sing

Charles Wesley/Felix Mendelssohn

Richard Edmonds, Song Leader – Lucy Kay Osborne, Organ (First Lutheran, Bothell)

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

HOMILY

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee

CAROL

The Magnificat by Maeve

Rachel Taylor; arr. by Gretchen Mertes

Rev. Gretchen Mertes (Our Redeemer's Lutheran, Seattle)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

✠ MEAL ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

At this time, we invite you to make a generous gift to your local congregation. If you wish to make an additional donation to our NW Washington Synod COVID-19 Fund, please give here: www.lutheransnw.org/donate.

OFFERING CAROL

El Burrito de Belen (Mi Burrito Sabanero)

Villancico Tradicional (Traditional Carol)

Rev. Priscilla Austin & Family (Immanuel Lutheran, Seattle)

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
 and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here. Come, eat and drink.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

BLESSING

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
and the everlasting peace of Jesus
who is Savior, Christ, and Lord.

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

CAROL

O Holy Night

Arr. by Bradley Knight

Combined Virtual Choir of Sammamish Hills Lutheran & Mt. Si Lutheran, North Bend

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve our Savior, Christ, and Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Symphonia on Hyfrydol

Bryant & Vanessa Wilkie, bell tree; Dr. Will Simpson, piano (Saint Andrew's Lutheran, Bellevue)

Kevin McChesney

Thank you to those from around the synod who shared their gifts to put this service together – those noted in the bulletin and the synod staff: Pr. Andy Yee, Deacon Dianne Johnson, Pr. David Hahn, Traci Hall, Susan Berg, and Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee.

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