LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS

December 29, 2024 9:30 a.m.

SILENT PRAYER

PRELUDE: Savior of the Heathen, Come
From Heaven Above to Earth I Come
What Child Is This (Greensleeves)

J.S. Bach
16th Century English Melody

ANNOUNCEMENTS

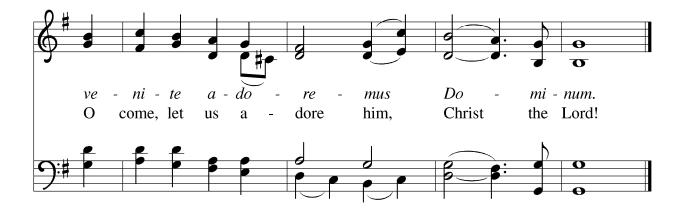
Stand

ENTRANCE HYMN: O Come, All Ye Faithful

Printed on the next page.







DIALOG

- P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
- The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- P Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.
- **W**e have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.
- P To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
- In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **G** And also with you.
- Let us pray. Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- **G** Amen

LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2-7

God promises a king

A reading from Isaiah.

² "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;

they rejoice before you

as with joy at the harvest,

as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;

authority rests upon his shoulders;

and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace

for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it

with justice and with righteousness

from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

- **A** The word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.



The king will come from Bethlehem

- **A** A reading from Micah.
 - ² "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old,

from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth;

then the rest of his kindred shall return

to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

- ⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.
- **A** The word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

CAROL: O Little Town Of Bethlehem lit - tle town of Beth-le - hem, how still we see thee For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered bove all a -How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n! ho - ly child of Beth-le-hem, descend to us, pray; A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by; an - gels keep their watch of while mor-tals sleep, the won-d'ring love. God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his be out our sin, and en - ter in, born in us to - day. thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light. yet morn-ing stars, to geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth, O No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin, hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell; hopes and fears of all The the years are met in to - night. thee God the king, and and prais - es sing to peace to all where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in. us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

The annunciation to Mary

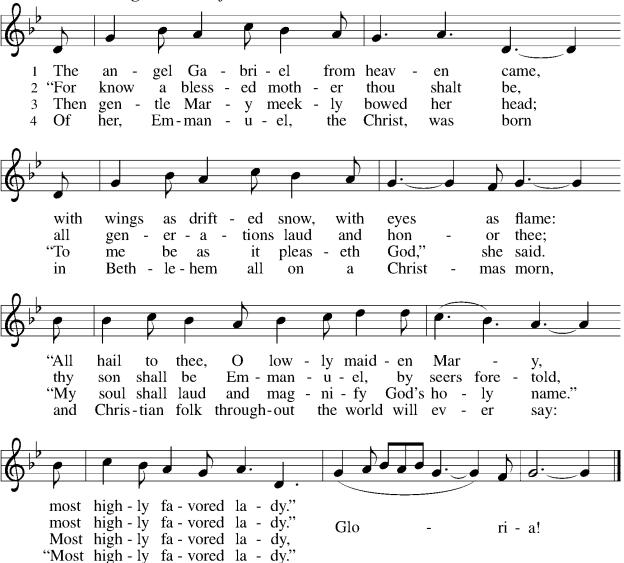
A A reading from Luke.

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² 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 ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God.

³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

- **A** The word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

CAROL: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



The birth of Jesus

A A reading from Luke.

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

- A The word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.



FIFTH READING Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to see the Savior

A A reading from Luke.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

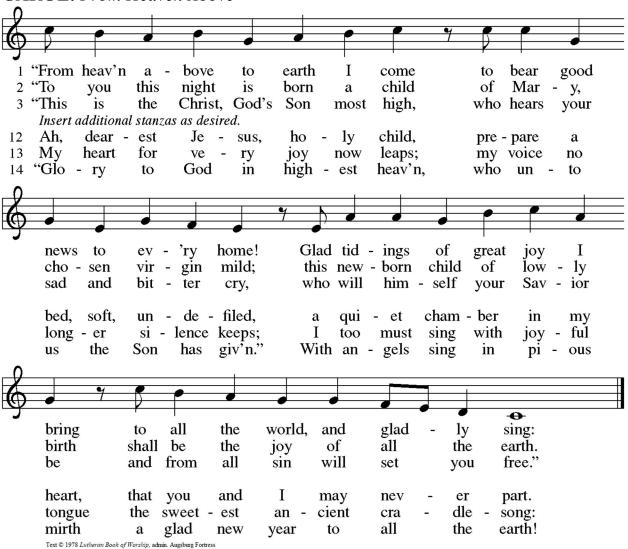
¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

- **A** The word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

CAROL: From Heaven Above



SIXTH READING

Jesus receives his name

A A reading from Luke.

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now 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. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided 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, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then 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 ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There 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 seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty- four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At 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.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

- **A** The word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.



The magi follow the star

A A reading from Matthew.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler

who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

- **A** The word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

CAROL: We Three Kings We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far, 2 Born a king on Beth-le-hem's plain, gold I bring to crownhim a - gain; 3 Frank-in-cense to of-fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh; 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom 5 Glo-rious now be-hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice; and foun - tain, moor and moun-tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star. king for - ev - er, ceas - ing prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly nev - er, o - ver us all to reign. rais - ing, wor-ship-ing God Most High. sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed-ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone-cold tomb. heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies. Refrain Oh, star of won-der, star of night, star with roy-al beau-ty bright; west-ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

The slaughter of the holy innocents

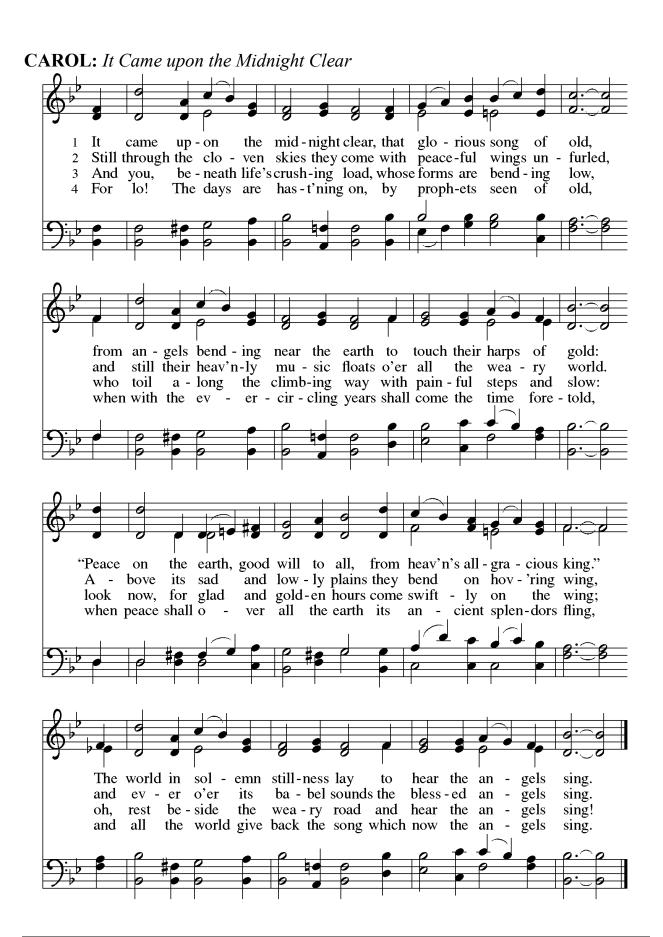
A A reading from Matthew.

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

18 "A voice was heard in Ramah,wailing and loud lamentation,Rachel weeping for her children;she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

- **A** The word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.



A A reading from John.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

- **A** The word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

CAROL: *Joy to the World* Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -2 Joy the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their to 3 No let sin and grow nor thorns in more sor row 4 He rules the world with truth makes the and grace and king; 'ry heart him ceive her let ev pre pare songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and bless - ings fest the ground; he comes to make his tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous na and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture room joy, plains re - peat the sound-ing peat the sound-ing found, the curse is the curse is flow far as far as won-ders of his ness and love, and won-ders of heav'n and na-ture and and sing, and heav'n, heav'n sing, and and na - ture sing. joy, re peat, re peat the sound - ing joy. found, far as, far as the curse is found. won - ders, ders of love. love, and won his

heav'n and na-ture

sing,

Stand

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

- P Glory to God in the highest,
- and peace to God's people on earth.
- P Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.
- **Send** your gift of peace to all nations of the world.
- P Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.
- C Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.
- P Blessed are you, Son of God.
 You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.
- Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

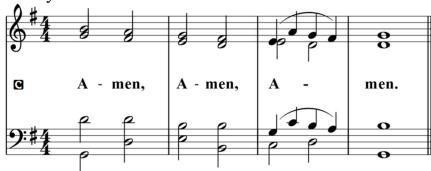
and the power, and the glory,

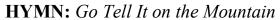
forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING (BENEDICTION)

- **P** Let us bless the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.
- May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child; and may almighty God, Father,

 Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.







OFFERING

The offering will be collected as you leave the Church.

POSTLUDE: Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts from Christmas Oratorio Saint-Saens Glory to God in the Highest G. Pergolesi



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