

Service of Lessons and Carols
St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel
Iowa City, Iowa
December 24, 2022
7:00 P.M.

Preludes

The Ringing of the Bell

Processional Hymn: #376 Once in Royal David's City
The congregation stands and follows the cross.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Responsive Prayer

P Lord, have mercy.
C **Christ, have mercy.**
P Lord, have mercy.
C **O Jesus, named Wonderful,**
P O Jesus, our wise Counselor,
C **O Jesus, true and mighty God,**
P O Jesus, Prince of Peace,
C **We praise and bless your holy name.**
P O Jesus, Son of David
C **O Jesus, Branch of Jesse**
P O Jesus, bright and morning star,
C **Deliver us from our sins.**
P O Jesus, light of the Gentiles
C **O Jesus, desire of the nations,**
P O Jesus, sun of righteousness,
C **Help us and bless us.**
P O Jesus, hear us,
C **and prepare us for your coming.**
P Gather your ancient people, Israel, to your light and draw the nations to your truth.
C **Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let our cry come to you.**
P Help your messengers to prepare the way before you in every land, endow your servants with righteousness and knowledge, preserve all who put their trust in you, and give peace to all your people.
C **Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let our cry come to you.**
P Prepare us for your coming,
C **and save us from our sins.**

Duet: BEFORE THE MARVEL OF THIS NIGHT (Text by Jaroslav J. Vajda ; Music setting by Carl Schalk)

Lesson One The Seed of the Woman Shall Crush the Serpent's Head
Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

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. [9] But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" [10] And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." [11] He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" [12] The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." [13] 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."

[14] 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.

[15] 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."

[17] And to Adam he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
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;

[18] thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
you shall eat the plants of the field.

[19] By the sweat of your face
shall eat bread,

till you return to the ground,
out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
to dust you shall return."

Hymn: #362 O Sing of Christ

Lesson Two The Sacrifice of Isaac

Genesis 22:1-3

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." [2] He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." [3] So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

Hymn: #386 Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

Lesson Three The Lord's Covenant with David

2 Samuel 7:8-13

Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. [9]I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. [10]I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, [11]the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. [12]your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. [13]shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

Hymn: #398 Hail the Lord's Anointed

Lesson Four The Voices of the Prophets

Isaiah 9:1-2, Isaiah 11:1, 3b-4a; Micah 5:2; Isaiah 35:4; Ezekiel 34:24; Jeremiah 23:5; Zechariah 9:9a; Malachi 3:1

For to Us a Child Is Born

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

[2] The people who walked in darkness
seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
them has light shone.

Isaiah 9:1-2

The Righteous Reign of the Branch

[1]shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

[3]And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,

decide disputes by what his ears hear,
[4]with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Isaiah 11:1, 3b-4a

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
ancient days.

Micah 5:2

Say to those who have an anxious heart,
“Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God
come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
will come and save you.”

Isaiah 35:4

And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken.

Ezekiel 34:24

“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

Jeremiah 23:5

The Coming King of Zion

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Zechariah 9:9a

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:1

Hymn: #359 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lesson Five The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary

Luke 1:26-28

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, [27] to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. [28] And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

Hymn: #356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Lesson Six The Birth of Jesus Christ

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. [2]was the first registration when^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria. [3]And all went to be registered, each to his own town. [4]And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, [5]be registered with Mary, his betrothed,^[b] who was with child. [6]while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. [7]she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Hymn: #370 What Child is This

Lesson Seven The Shepherds Visit the Manger

Luke 2:8-20

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

[15] 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." [16] And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. [17]And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. [18]all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. [19]But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. [20]And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn: #368 Angels We Have Heard on High

Lesson Eight The Magi Are Led to The Manger

St. Matthew 2:1-12

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, 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." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "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.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 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." 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. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 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. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Hymn: #397 As with Gladness Men of Old

Lesson Nine The Mystery of the Incarnation

St. John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

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

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

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: #358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Vs 1-4 All

Vs 5 Women

Vs 6 Men

Vs 7 All

The Sermon: "The Word Became Flesh" **John 1:14**

Hymn #358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Vs 8-12 All

Vs 13 Women

Vs 14 Men

Vs 15 All

Lord's Prayer

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.**

The Prayers

Collect

P 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**

Hymn #363 Silent Night

To avoid dripping wax, please dip the unlighted candle into the flame of the lighted candle.

Benedicamus

P Bless we the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction (Pauline)

P: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn #387 Joy to the World

Announcements

Please join us downstairs in the Happy Hour Room for refreshments

The Musicians

Tony Birnbaum – organist

James Mons – trumpet

Amalia Magness – vocalist

Trevor Magness - vocalist