



FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday in the Octave of Christmas | 10:30AM

DECEMBER 27, 2020

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday in the Octave
of Christmas B

INTROIT 'Hodie Christus Natus Est'

(Plainchant)

Organ Voluntary
Noël sur les jeux d'anches
(Louis-Claude D'Aquin)

HYMN IN PROCESSION 'Once in Royal David's City'

H102 IRBY

Solo 1. Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

Choir 2. He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.

All 3. We like Mary, rest confounded
that a stable should display
heaven's Word, the world's creator,
cradled there on Christmas day,
yet this child, our Lord and brother,
brought us love for one another.

4. For he is our lifelong pattern;
daily, when on earth he grew;
he was tempted, scored, rejected,
tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.

5. And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

6. Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing round,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
where his saints his throne surround:
Christ, revealed to faithful eye,
set at God's right hand on high.

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Presider Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city. And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. And now, to gather up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

All 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Presider The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

The Lessons

FIRST LESSON Genesis 3: 8–15; 17–19

Lector The man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” The Lord God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
cursed are you among all animals
and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

And to the man he said,
“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,
and have eaten of the tree
about which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it’,
cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread
until you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

NRSV

CAROL ‘Adam Lay Ybounden’
words: Traditional English
music: Philip Ledger

SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15–18

Lector The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”

NRSV

CAROL ‘The Holly and the Ivy’
words: Traditional English
music: H. Walford Davies

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9: 2; 6-7

Lector 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.
 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.
 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.

NRSV

CAROL 'Sussex Carol'
words: Traditional English
music: Philip Ledger

FOURTH LESSON Isaiah II: 1-3a; 4a; 6-9

Lector A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
 and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
 the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
 the spirit of counsel and might,
 the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
 With righteousness he shall judge the poor,
 and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
 The wolf shall live with the lamb,
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
 the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
 and a little child shall lead them.
 The cow and the bear shall graze,
 their young shall lie down together;
 and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
 They will not hurt or destroy
 on all my holy mountain;
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
 as the waters cover the sea.

NRSV

CAROL 'Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming'
words: 15th Century German, from Isaiah xi
music: Hugo Distler

FIFTH LESSON Luke 1: 26–35; 38

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

CAROL 'Jesus Christ the Apple Tree'
words: Traditional
music: Elizabeth Poston

SIXTH LESSON Luke 2: 1; 3–7

Lector In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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. NRSV

HYMN 'Hark! The herald angels sing' H87 Mendelssohn

1. Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Refrain:
*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with us to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

SEVENTH LESSON Luke 1: 26–35; 38

Lector In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
 “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
 and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

NRSV

CAROL ‘Shepherd’s Pipe Carol’
words: John Rutter
music: John Rutter

EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2: 1-12

Lector In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘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.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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.” 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

NRSV

CAROL ‘Coventry Carol’
words: Traditional English
music: Martin Shaw

We pray for those...

In need of comfort

Jerry Kenyon
 Ann
 Jeff Ryan
 Henry Brigham
 Ann Bahan
 June Rector
 Martha Sheppard
 Jane Ryan
 Nada Lulic
 Tom
 Nancy McAllister
 Julia Fish
 Maegan McKerrow
 Elizabeth
 Herman Barnett
 Will
 Kris Wright
 Cathy Holland
 Peter Fuller
 Ernie Dean
 Julia Fish
 Ann Whiting
 Jean Nelle
 Ann Reysa
 Robin
 Sam Perry
 Susan Novak
 Pat Jones
 Mollie Shands
 Tom
 Paul
 William
 Felicia Retiz
 Julie Harrington
 Will
 Charlotte Brady
 Melissa
 Marjorie
 Coleman Horton
 Leonard
 Anne
 Harriet Rutland
 Michael
 Taylor
 Covert family
 Monteith family
 Collins family
 Carper family

NINTH LESSON John 1: 1-14

Lector 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 came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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

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

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. NRSV

CAROL 'Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day'

words: Traditional English

music: John Gardner

The Collects

Presider O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

**Expecting the birth
of a child**

Courtney Patton
Nicole Olesh
Courtney Moreland Lippe
Lillyan Duck
Katie Crowley
Jessica Sherrets
Allison Sjoberg Leatherman
Cathleen Naumann
Sarah Brayne
Blair Nelson
Courtney Schlegel
Allyson Jones Clayton
Kristen Dillavou
Kathryn Richter

Births

Charles Eugene McNamara
Lucy Gray

Deaths

Duke Covert

Serving in the armed forces

Staton Jobe
Shay Archer
Connor Downing
Alexandra Mauro
Michael Hart
Nico Barrangan
Joseph Turner
Davis Brown
Brandon Sharp
Katy Whitbeck
Clayton Baker
Jim Lively
Andrew Gray
Claten Bechtol
Zachary Pierce

The Blessing

Presider May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

HYMN

‘Joy to the world! the Lord is come’

H100 Antioch

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make
his blessings flow
far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world
with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love.

Organ Voluntary
In Dulci Jubilo
(Johann Sebastian Bach)