



Advent Lessons and Carols
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Olney, Maryland
December 14, 2025 | 10:30 AM

Before the paling of the stars,
Before the winter morn,
Before the earliest cockcrow
Jesus Christ was born:
Born in a stable,
Cradled in a manger,
In the world His Hands had made
Born a Stranger.

Priest and King lay fast asleep
In Jerusalem,
Young and old lay fast asleep
In crowded Bethlehem:
Saint and Angel, Ox and Ass,
Kept a watch together,
Before the Christmas daybreak
In the winter weather.

Jesus on His Mother's breast
In the stable cold,
Spotless Lamb of God was He,
Shepherd of the Fold:
Let us kneel with Mary Maid,
With Joseph bent and hoary,
With Saint and Angel, Ox and Ass,
To hail the King of Glory.

— Christina Rossetti, "A Christmas Carol"



Advent Lessons and Carols

Originally created in 1880 by the Anglican Bishop E. W. Benson, a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was introduced to King's College in 1918 by the new Dean of Chapel, the Rev. Eric Milner-White, a former army chaplain, who conceived of the service as a vehicle for conveying the gospel to a generation traumatized and hardened by the horrors of the Great War. Re-working Bishop Benson's service, Milner-White adjusted the readings and composed the famous bidding prayer and generally gave Lessons and Carols the shape it has today. The long-time music director at King's (69 year-old Arthur Henry Mann) was initially skeptical of the young dean and his newfangled service. But Lessons and Carols proved immensely popular and rapidly became a Cambridge institution. The service has been held at King's every Christmas Eve since (and broadcast by the BBC nearly every year since 1928), and it celebrated its centennial last year.

When Angela and I lived in New Haven, we were introduced to another one of Eric Milner-White's liturgical creations, A Procession with Carols on Advent Sunday, which Milner-White introduced at King's in 1934. This beautiful service is structurally similar to the earlier Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, but with Advent hymns and six readings that focus on both the first and second comings of the Lord. It begins with the medieval Advent Matin Responsory and culminates in a lovely charge and blessing and the powerful hymn, "Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending." In more recent years, this service has become an annual tradition at Trinity College, Cambridge.

This morning's Advent Lessons and Carols draws on both of Milner-White's great carol services, along with borrowings from other sources (especially the wonderfully rich Advent Lessons and Carols service at Concordia Seminary, St. Catherines, Ontario, crafted by the Rev. Dr. Thomas Winger) and a few tweaks of my own. In today's service, the seven lessons are paired with the seven Great "O" Antiphons. The "O" Antiphons (so-named for their opening words, "O Wisdom," "O Adonai," etc.), are the responsive verses traditionally sung with the Magnificat during Vespers in the final week of Advent. Rooted in Old Testament imagery, each of the antiphons calls for the coming of the Messiah. The "O" Antiphons are best known as the basis of the famous Advent hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

Throughout this service, the hymns and readings join us to the hopes of God's people through the ages and direct us to the Savior, who came once in the lowly form of a poor infant and who will come again in glory as Lord of the Universe. It is my prayer that this morning's service will help prepare your heart for his coming.

Stand

Matin Responsory for Advent Sunday

P I look from afar:**C** **And lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.****P** Go ye out to meet Him and say:**C** **Tell us, art Thou He that should come to reign over Thy people Israel?****P** High and low, rich and poor, one with another,**C** **Go ye out to meet Him and say:****P** Hear, O Thou Shepherd of Israel, Thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.**C** **Tell us, art Thou He that should come?****P** Stir up Thy strength, O Lord, and come,**C** **to reign over Thy people Israel.****P** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.**C** **I look from afar: And lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.****P** Go ye out to meet Him and say:**C** **Tell us, art Thou He that should come to reign over Thy people Israel**

Processional Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

LSB 376



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
 3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His
 5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the

low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
 God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
 day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and
 ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in

ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He
heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like

was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.
leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.
stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-95, alt.
Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-76
Text and tune: Public domain

Bidding Prayer

P Beloved in Christ, as we prepare this Advent to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, let us hear again in the words of the Scriptures the story of God's loving purpose in our creation and redemption. Let us bring to mind the goodness of God in calling the creation into his light; his mercy in Christ Jesus in drawing us from the darkness of sin; and his grace to us and to all sinners in summoning us by his Holy Spirit, as the dawn of his kingdom breaks upon us.

But first let us pray for the needs of His whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and brotherhood within the Church He came to build, within these United States, the state of Maryland, and the community of Olney.

And, because this of all things would rejoice His heart, let us at this time remember in His name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and those also who know not the Lord Jesus, or who by sin have grieved His heart.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ Himself has taught us, saying:

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.

Sit

The First Lesson

Genesis 1:1–5

God creates light and separates it from darkness.

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

L Seek him that made the Pleiades and Orion:

C That turns deep darkness into the morning. Hallelujah!

Antiphon



P O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the | Most High, *
pervading and permeating all cre- | ation,

C mightily ordering | all things: *
Come and teach us the way of | prudence.



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-93
 Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908
 Text and tune: Public domain

The Second Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

*God tells Adam and Eve that they have lost the life of paradise
 and that their offspring shall bruise the serpent's head*

⁸And 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. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."
¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The 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.

¹⁵I 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.”

¹⁷And to Adam he said,

“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and 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;
¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

[L] My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning:

[C] **More than watchmen for the morning.**

Antiphon



[P] O Adonai and ruler of the house of | Israel,
who appeared to Moses in the | burning bush

[C] **and gave him the Law on | Sinai:**
Come with an outstretched arm and re- | deem us.

Poem

Beauty of Holiness

Barbara Stephenson

Out of the Beauty of Holiness
The Father spoke the Word
Of Love - unknown to man

He made, He birthed in His Image.

The Word so very God,
Himself of Substance spoken
Formed Holy and yet human
To Be with us, great privilege.

No grandeur, but a star,
Above Him displayed His Light
Poor in the flesh so given
To bring home men (those) of night.

Let joy break the darkness!
For Holiness brings Love
The Father's Son will do this
For us now given into His Presence.

And calls us out to Love

The Third Lesson

Isaiah 11:1–9

The Lord promises a shoot from the branch of Jesse.

- ¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.
⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,

and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
 9They shall not hurt or destroy
 in all my holy mountain;
 for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
 as the waters cover the sea.

L Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God has shone forth:
C **Our God shall come. Hallelujah!**

Antiphon



P O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the | peoples, *
 before whom all | kings are mute,
C **to whom the nations will do | homage: ***
Come quickly to del- | iver us.

Carol

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

LSB 359



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

Text (sts. 1-2): tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934; alt.; (sts. 1-2, 4): German, 16th cent.; (st. 3): Friedrich L. C. Layriz, 1808-59; (st. 3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845-1925; (st. 4): tr. John C. Mattes, 1876-1948
 Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln
 Text and tune: Public domain

In fulfillment of the angel's words, the prophet John is born.

⁵In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. ⁷But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years.

⁸Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, ⁹according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. ¹⁰And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. ¹¹And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. ¹⁴And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb. ¹⁶And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, ¹⁷and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared.”

¹⁸And Zechariah said to the angel, “How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years.” ¹⁹And the angel answered him, “I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time.” ²¹And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. ²²And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. ²³And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

²⁴After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived,

⁵⁷and she bore a son.

⁸⁰And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

L Behold I send My messenger:

C **And he will prepare the way before Me.**

Antiphon



P O Key of David and scepter of the house of | Israel,
You open and no | one can close,

C **You close and no one can | open:**
Come and rescue the prisoners
who are in darkness and the sha- | dow of death.

Carol

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

LSB 356



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924

Text and tune: Basque, c. 18th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

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The Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he

came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He 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, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵And 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. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And 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.

L Rejoice greatly, O Jerusalem:

C Behold, your King comes.

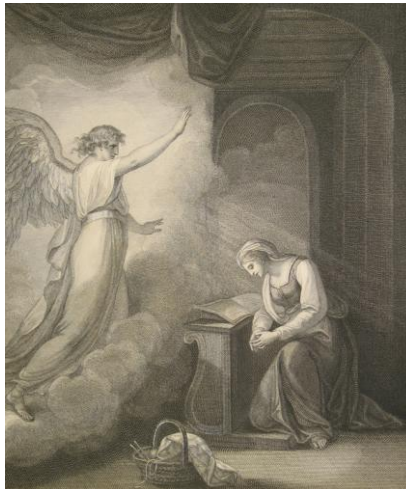
Antiphon



P O | Dayspring, *

splendor of light ever- | lasting:

C Come and enlighten those who sit in | darkness *
and in the sha | dow of death.





1 My soul re - joice - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the

great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He

fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion

bless - ing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the

ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the

sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring

Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556–c. 1622

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Tune: Public domain

The Sixth Lesson*Matthew 1:18–25**The Evangelist tells of the birth of Jesus.*

¹⁸Now 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. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph,

being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But 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. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P Praise to You, O Christ.

C **King who comes to save us.**

Antiphon



P O King of the | nations, *
the ruler they | long for,

C **the cornerstone uniting all | people: ***
Come and save us all, whom You formed | out of clay.

Carol

Not that Far from Bethlehem

Chancel Choir

Verse 1

Underneath the stars just a simple man and wife
Somewhere in the dark his words cut the silent night
Take my hand
For the Child that you carry is God's own
And though it seems the road is long

Chorus

We're not that far from Bethlehem
Where all our hope and joy began
For in our arms we'll cherish Him
We're not that far (from Bethlehem)

Verse 2

Let us celebrate as the Christmases go by
Learn to live our days
With our hearts near to the Child
Ever drawn ever close

To the only love that lasts
And though two thousand years have passed
To Chorus

Ending
We're not that far
From Bethlehem
From Bethlehem

Gayla Borders, Jeff Borders, Lowell Alexander
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Presentation of Our Offerings

The Seventh Lesson

Revelation 21:1-7

St. John sees a new heaven and a new earth.

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

⁵And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.”

L He says, “Surely I am coming soon.”

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

Antiphon



P O Em- | manuel, *

our king and our Lord,

C **the anointed for the nations and their | Savior: ***
Come and save us, O | Lord our God.



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
 4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
 Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
 deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348-c. 413; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.
 Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V
 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand



Vespers Responsory

- P** We wait for your loving kindness, O Lord,
C **in the midst of your temple.**
P Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed;
C **Tomorrow, go forth, and the Lord, He will be with you.**
P Stand still, and you shall see the salvation of the Lord.
C **Tomorrow, go forth, and the Lord, He will be with you.**
P Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
C **Tomorrow, go forth, and the Lord, He will be with you.**

Collect of the Day

- P** Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Prayer for Healing

- P** O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only Help in time of need, look down from heaven, we pray, to behold, visit, and relieve all those who suffer from illness or sorrow or loss, especially_____. Look upon them with the eyes of Your mercy, comfort them with a sense of Your goodness, restore them to wholeness, and give them peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C **Amen.**

Luther's Morning Prayer

- C** **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

Charge and Blessing

- P** Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no man evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
C **Amen.**



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un - furled,
 3 All you, be-neath your heav - y load, By care and guilt bent low,
 4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
 And still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world.
 Who toil a - long a drea - ry way With pain - ful steps and slow:
 When down in - to the cir - cling years Came Christ as was fore - told.



"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
 A - bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov - 'ring wing,
 Look up, for gold - en is the hour, Come swift - ly on the wing,
 His word of peace shall to the earth God's an - cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay To hear the an - gels sing.
 And ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.
 The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an - gels sing.
 And all who take this gift will hear The song the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-76, alt.
 Tune: Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900
 Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Postlude

**The Christmas Tree in our Sanctuary was donated by Jean and David Krueger
In Memory of their son, Christopher Krueger**

The beautiful poinsettias which grace the Sanctuary were given by:

Ann & Bob Wolters	Dedicated to the Memory of Mr & Mrs Elmer Wolters & Mr & Mrs John Cameron
Ann & Bob Wolters	In Honor of Dovanon, Camero, Fiona, & Sean
Andy & Lisa Carpenter	In Memory of Andy's parents
Andy & Lisa Carpenter	In Memory of Lisa's stepfather
Cheryl & John Malina	In Honor of Kristen & Reid Laidlaw
Mary & Mike Rajnik	In Memory of Loved Ones
Carl & Jackie Schulten	In Memory of Duart Crabtree
Carl & Jackie Schulten	To Honor our faith family at Good Shepherd
Greg & Nina Mullen	To the Glory of God
Jim & Connie Strachan	In Memory of Our Parents
Chuck & Sherrie Dean	In Memory of Our Parents

Christmas Worship

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24
7:00 pm Worship Service

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25
10:30 am Worship Service

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Reverend Timothy M. Boerger, Pastor
4200 Olney-Laytonsville Road
Olney, Maryland 20832
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