

December 24, 2022 – 7:00 PM

Christmas Eve - Traditional Lessons and Carols

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Welcome to Memorial Lutheran Church! On this Holy Night, we hope that your worship experience brings you great joy as the Holy Spirit fills this time, and our hearts, with the light of Christ. God bless you this Christmas season!

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PRESERVICE MUSIC

PRELUDE

OPENING CAROL: *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"* – **Hymn #379 (vs. 1 & 4)**

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE:

CAROL: *"Of the Father's Love Begotten"* – **Hymn #384 (vs. 1 & 3)**

FIRST LESSON: *Genesis 3:8-15*

Adam and Eve heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife 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."

CAROL: *"Once in Royal David's City"* – **Hymn #376 (vs. 1, 2 & 5)**

SECOND LESSON: *Genesis 22:15-18*

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."

CAROL: *"What Child Is This" – Hymn #370 (vs. 1 & 2)*

THIRD LESSON: *Isaiah 7:14; 11:1-9*

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel... 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. He shall not judge by what His eyes see, or decide by what His ears hear; but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth and with the breath of His lips, He shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around His waist, and faithfulness the belt around His loins. 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.

CAROL: *"Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming" – Hymn #359*

FOURTH LESSON: *Isaiah 9:2-7*

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

CAROL: *"Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" – Hymn #386 (vs. 1 & 4)*

FIFTH LESSON: *Micah 5:2-4*

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. 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. 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; and He shall be the one of peace.

CAROL: *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”* – **Hymn #361 (vs. 1 & 4)**

SIXTH LESSON: *Luke 1:26-38*

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. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with 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.

CAROL: *“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”* – **Hymn #366 (vs. 1 and 4)**

SEVENTH LESSON: *Matthew 1:18-25*

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name Him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named Him Jesus.

CAROL: *"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"* – **Hymn #374 (vs. 1 & 2)**

EIGHTH LESSON: *Luke 2:1-7*

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up

from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, (because he was of the house and lineage of David.) to be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

CAROL: *"Away in a Manger"* – **Hymn #364**

NINTH LESSON: *Luke 2:8-14*

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, an angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said to them, "Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

CAROL: *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* – **Hymn #368**

TENTH LESSON: *Luke 2:15-20*

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the Babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying, which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it wondered at those things, which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

CAROL: *"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"* – **Hymn #380 (vs. 1 & 3)**

ELEVENTH LESSON: *John 1:1-5, 9-14*

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 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.... 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.

CAROL: *"Joy to the World"* – Hymn #387

LITANY OF THE INCARNATION

P: God of Love, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You were merciful to those who walked in darkness or despair. Receive, then, the prayer we offer this night for the peace of the world and the salvation of all people.

C: O Lord, hear our prayer.

P: Look down, we pray, upon our fellow Christians throughout the world who this night gather to celebrate the Savior's birth, and accept the prayers and praises we offer as one holy Christian Church.

C: O Lord, hear our prayer.

P: God of peace, let peace reign all over the earth, heal the wounds of pride and arrogance, clear the vision of those blinded by greed, and let people everywhere know Your will revealed in the Prince of Peace.

C: O Lord, hear our prayer.

P: Your Son came like a bright light into a dark night. Give us courage and the radiance of love to bring His light into our darkness, and keep us restless until it has penetrated the whole world.

C: O Lord, hear our prayer.

P: Watch over our loved ones that they may remember Your love and share with us in our thanksgiving to You. Increase the faith and confidence of the sick, the aged and the poor. Encourage the afflicted. Give hope to those in despair, and comfort to those who mourn.

C: O Lord, hear our prayer.

P: We remember the faithful departed who rest in Your love and care. Bring us and all Your children to stand in the full light of Your presence and the radiance of Your love.

C: Lord, be gracious to us and give us Your peace. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CAROL: *"Silent Night"* – Hymn #363

BLESSING

POSTLUDE