

The Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
hosted by
Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church (Baltimore)
in partnership with Musicians from
Augsburg (W. Baltimore), Journey of Faith (Rockdale)
and St. Philips (E. Baltimore)



for Synod-Wide Worship on
the Second Day of Christmas - Sunday, 26 December 2021

Today's service, "The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols" is modeled after the original Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, which was first held on Christmas Eve 1918 at King's College Chapel, King's College - Oxford, England, a tradition which continues to this day. The first celebration of its kind to be held at King's College was devised by the Very Reverend E.M. Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's College, after an experience as an army chaplain which had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship, Rev. White himself, drawing upon more ancient rites revised the Order of Service in 1919, involving the rearrangement of the lessons, and from that date the service has always begun with the carol "Once in Royal David's City".

The Welcome

The Processional

"Once In Royal David's City"

The congregation is invited to stand and join in the singing of stanzas 5 and 6 of the hymn.

- 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.*
- 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 mean and lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.*

3 . *And through all his wondrous childhood
He would honor and obey
Love and watch the Lowly maiden,
in whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, Obedient, good as he.*

4. *For he is our childhood's pattern,
day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless
Tears and smiles like us he knew:
And he feeleth for our sadness,
And he shareth in our gladness.*

**5. And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
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 by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.**

The Invitatory Prayer

Vicar David M. Wright, Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Vicar. Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas Season our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the shepherds and the wise men adore the child lying in his mother's arms.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this Sanctuary, dedicated to his Glory and Majesty, glad with our carols of praise:

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill overall the earth; for unity and fellowship within Christ Jesus' Holy catholic Church that he came to build, within the United States of America, Across our entire Delaware/Maryland Synod and each Congregation, and in the hearts and minds of all those who worship Christ as Savior and Lord.

And because it would rejoice his heart, let us remember at this time the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all who now need most the Comfort of the Lord Jesus.

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 the 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 hath taught us:

**All: Our Father, which 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 them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

The Invitatory Carol

"Away in a Manger"

**1. Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down his sweet head
The stars in the sky
Look down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay**

2. The cattle are lowing
The poor baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying he makes
I love thee Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle
'Til morning is nigh

3. Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down his sweet head
The stars in the heavens
Look down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay

4. Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down his sweet head
I love thee Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle
'Til morning is nigh
Stay by my cradle
'Til morning is nigh

The First Lesson

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

"Of the Fathers Love Begotten"

Jerusalem and St. Philip Combined Choirs

Genesis III

The Second Lesson

Genesis XII

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

“Jesus the Light of the World”

Jerusalem & St. Philip Combined Choirs

The Third Lesson

Isaiah XI

Christ’s birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

Hymn

“God Rest You, Merry Gentlemen”

English Traditional Carol

1. **God rest you merry gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
for Jesus Christ our savior
was born upon this day,
to save us all from Satan’s power
when we were Gone astray:**

*Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

2. **The shepherds at those tidings
rejoiced much in mind,
and left their flocks A- feeding,
in tempest, storm and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway
This blessed babe to find: *Refrain***

3. **Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you with in this place,
and with true love and Brotherhood
each other embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
all doth others deface: *Refrain***

The Fourth Lesson

Isaiah XI

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

“Who Would Imagine a King.”

Ms. Annagale Watson

The Fifth Lesson

St. Luke I

The angel Gabriel Salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Homily

The Offertory

At this time, we worship God with our giving.

You may take this moment to make a gift to your local congregation or ministry, or you might consider making a gift to support the ministries of our Delaware-Maryland Synod by visiting www.DeMdSynod.org and clicking “Give Online”- or go directly to: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=644796>.

“What Child is This”

- 1. What Child is this who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**
- 2. Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.**

3. So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
The Virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

The Sixth Lesson

St. Luke II

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Hymn

"The First Nowell"

English Traditional Carol

1. The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as They lay;
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's Night that was so deep:

Refrain: **Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the king of Israel!**

2. They looked up and saw a star,
Shining in the east, beyond them far
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night: *Refrain*

3. *And by that light of that same star,
three wise men came from country far
To seek for a King was their intent,
and to follow the star where'e'er it went: Refrain*

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest;
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay: *Refrain*

5. *Then enter'd in those wise men three,
full rev'ently upon their knee,
and offer'd there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense: Refrain*

6. **Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our Heav'nly Lord,
that hath Made heav'n and earth of naught,
and with his blood mankind hath bought: Refrain**

The Seventh Lesson

St. Luke II

The shepherds go to the manger.

"O Holy Night"

Ms. Annagale Watson

The Eighth Lesson

St. Matthew II

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

"Jesus, What a Wonderful Child"

Ms. Felecia Thomas with the Jerusalem & St. Philp Combined Choirs

The Ninth Lesson

St. John I

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

"Go Tell it on the Mountain"

1. **Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born**

**While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a Holy light**

2. Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

The shepherds feared and trembled
When, lo! Above the Earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth

3. Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born

Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born
And brought us all salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born
That Jesus Christ is born

The Bidding Prayer

Vicar. *The Lord be with you.*

All And with thy spirit.

Vicar. *Let us pray. O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only son, Jesus Christ: grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.*

All Amen.

The Blessing

The Recessional

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**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 angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King.**

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