

*Lutheran Church of the Resurrection*

*Sunday, December 31, 2017*

*Lessons and Carols for Christmas*



**PRELUDE**

“O How Joyfully”

Duet, Judy Roll & Shirley Murray

(Please stand as you are able)

**OPENING SONG**

**Joy to the World**

ELW 267

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
  
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

**OPENING PRAYER**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts.

**C** **Amen**

**SHARED MINISTRY REMINDERS**

***LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS***

**FIRST READING: Micah 5:2–5a**

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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;

<sup>5</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

## FIRST CAROL

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

- All      1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
- Women    2. For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
- All      4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

## SECOND READING: Luke 1:26–35, 38

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>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. <sup>38</sup>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.



SECOND CAROL

Lo, How a Rose Is Growing (Vs. 1, 4, 5)

ELW 272

WOMEN

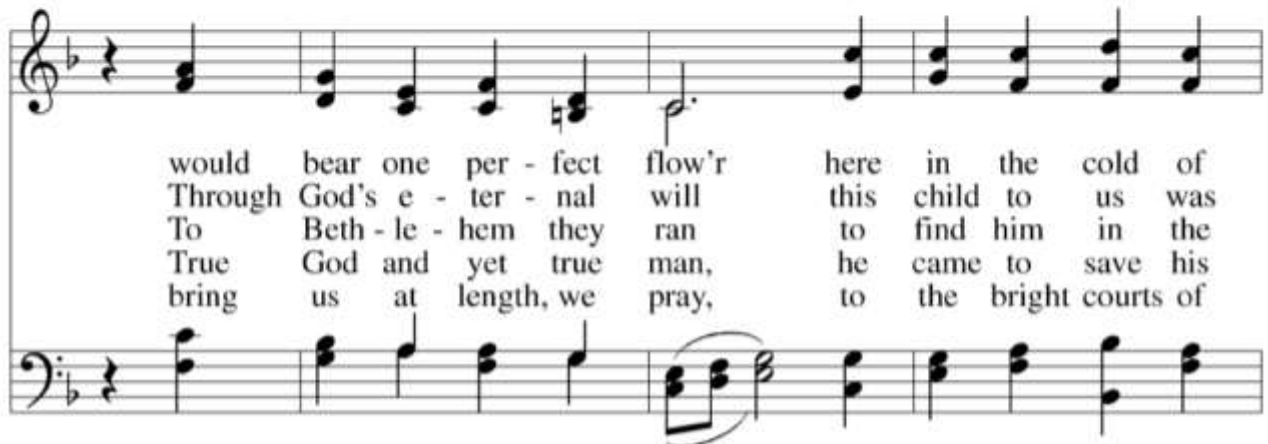
MEN  
ALL



1 Lo, how a rose is grow - ing, a bloom of fin - est grace;  
2 The rose of which I'm sing - ing, I - sa - iah had fore - told.  
3 The shep - herds heard the sto - ry the an - gels sang that night;  
4 This flow'r, so small and ten - der, with fra - grance fills the air;  
5 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt all hu - man woe;



the proph - ets had fore - told it; a branch of Jes - se's race  
He came to us through Mar - y who shel - tered him from cold.  
how Christ was born of Mar - y; he was the Son of light.  
his bright - ness ends the dark - ness that kept the earth in fear.  
O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who tri - umphed o'er our foe;



would bear one per - fect flow'r here in the cold of  
Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to us was  
To Beth - le - hem they ran to find him in the  
True God and yet true man, he came to save his  
bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of



win - ter and dark - est mid - night hour.  
giv - en at mid - night calm and still.  
man - ger as an - gel her - alds sang.  
peo - ple from earth's dark night of sin.  
heav - en and in - to end - less day.

### **THIRD READING: Matthew 1:18–25**

<sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>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. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

### **THIRD CAROL**

### **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

**ELW 270**

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

#### Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! Refrain

### **FOURTH READING: Luke 2:8–20**

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

<sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

#### **FOURTH CAROL**

#### **Angels, from the Realms of Glory**

**ELW 275**

1. Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.
2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

#### **FIFTH READING: Matthew 2:1–11**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>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." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>"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."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>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." <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>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.

- 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 Christian, 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 the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898



## SIXTH READING: Luke 2:15-21

*Eight days after his birth, Jesus is circumcised according to Jewish law and given the name announced by the angel before his conception.*

<sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

<sup>21</sup>After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.



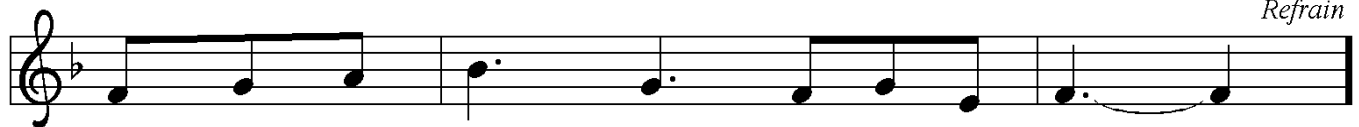
That boy - child of Mar - y was born in a sta - ble,



a man - ger his cra - dle in Beth - le - hem.



- 1 What shall we call him, child of the man - ger?
- 2 His name is Je - sus, God ev - er with us,
- 3 How can he save us, how can he help us,
- 4 Gift of the Fa - ther, to hu - man moth - er,



What name is giv - en in Beth - le - hem?  
 God giv - en for us in Beth - le - hem.  
 born here a - mong us in Beth - le - hem?  
 makes him our broth - er in Beth - le - hem.

*Refrain*

## RESPONSIVE PRAYER

**P** It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

**C** **Your Word, Jesus, is truth.**

**P** In his light, draw all to the manger

**C** **to gather in wonder with the shepherds.**

**P** In his light, draw all to the manger

**C** **to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.**

**P** In his light, draw all to the manger

**C** **to sing for joy with the angels.**

**P** In the brightness of his life

**C** **cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.**

**P** It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

**C** **In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.**

**P** Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(After each petition concludes with *“Lord, in your mercy”*, the congregation responds, *“hear our prayer”*)

## PEACE

A The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

A I invite you to share the Peace of Christ with one another.

(Please be seated)

## GIFTS OF OFFERING

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

Duet, Judy Roll & Shirley Murray

(Please stand as you are able)

## OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Good and loving God,

**C we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you

**C And also with you.**

P Life up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



## THE PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### Angels, from the Realms of Glory

ELW 275

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,  
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER:      Adapted, Sung To Tune: It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

Our Father, Lord on heav'ns high throne, Most holy be your name.  
Your kingdom come, Your will be done, On earth in heav'n the same.  
Give us, this day, the food we need; Forgiven may we be;  
Into temptation do not lead; from evil set us free.  
Yours is the kingdom: Unto you, In grateful love we bow.  
And yours the pow'r Lord, let us view Your mighty presence now.  
The glory Yours; Your praise be sung, By angel hosts and all.  
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue, for evermore. Amen!

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P      Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.



## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION SONGS

### Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW 276

1. Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
2. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

## The First Noel

ELW 300

1. The first Noel 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

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
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**



## The Bells of Christmas

ELW 298

1. The bells of Christmas chime once more; the heav'nly guest is at the door.  
He comes to earthly dwellings still with new year gifts of peace, good will.
2. This world, though wide and far outspread, could scarcely find for you a bed.  
Your cradle was a manger stall, no pearl nor silk nor kingly hall.

## Away in a Manger

ELW 278

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
The stars in the sky looked 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 you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.



(Please stand as you are able)

### BLESSING

- P Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!  
**C Praise God, all creatures here below!**  
P You are the shepherds telling the story.  
**C We tell it in the streets and across the land.**  
P You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

**C We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.**

**P You are the angels announcing peace.**

**C We live with joy and go now in peace.**

**P Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.**

**C Amen**

**SENDING SONG**

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

**ELW 289**

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.
3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

**DISMISSAL**

**A Go in peace, Christ is with you.**

**C Thanks be to God! Hallelujah!**

**POSTLUDE**

"Carol of the Bells"

## **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:**

**Assisting Minister:** Dave Freiberg

**Lectors:** John Frith

**Communion:** Sandy Russell, Val Bryan,  
Tanda Ainsworth

**Greeters:** Chuck & Sharon Kurdupski

**Ushers:** Earl Cole

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## **Readings for next Sunday, January 7, 2018**

Baptism of Our Lord

### **INTRODUCTION**

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit/wind moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

**We invite you to read these texts as you prepare for next Sunday's worship.**

Genesis 1:1-5

Acts 19:1-7

Mark 1:4-11