

# PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH and ACADEMY

Sussex, Wisconsin

December 19, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.

December 20, 2020 – 10:30 a.m.

## The Thirtieth Annual Christmas Service of Lessons & Carols

Featuring the Children's Choirs of  
Peace Lutheran Church

### CAROL CONGREGATION AND CHOIRS

Text: C. F. Alexander, 1818-95; Tune: H. J. Gauntlett, 1805-76; Setting: David Willcocks, 1919-2015

### *Once in Royal David's City*

#### *All Children's Choirs:*

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.

#### *All:*

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 and mean and lowly  
    Lived on earth our Savior holy.

#### *All Children's Choirs:*

3. And through all His wondrous childhood  
    He would honour and obey,  
Love and watch the lowly maiden,  
    In whose gentle arms He lay:  
Christian children all shall be  
    Mild, obedient, good as He.

#### *All:*

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.

#### *All:*

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.

#### *All:*

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;  
When like stars His children crowned  
    All in white shall wait around.

*Stand*

## INVOCATION, BIDDING PRAYER, and THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Sit*

**CAROL** ALL CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

*Christmas Wonder*

Composer: Walter L. Pelz, b. 1926

1. See the baby's tiny hand.  
Who could know that, as a man,  
The blind and lame would seek his touch  
And see and walk without a crutch.  
But who could know that winter night?  
Who could know?
2. Hold the baby's little foot.  
Who would know that he would put  
His footprint on the sands of time  
With dusty trek through Palestine.  
But who could know that winter night?  
Who could know?
3. Hear the baby's fitful cry.  
Who could know that he would die  
And then return to set us free  
From death's unending misery.  
But who could know that winter night?  
Who could know?
4. See the baby's eyes so bright.  
Who could know that winter night  
That he would look into my soul  
And, loving me, would make me whole.  
My life was changed that ancient night.  
Now I know.

**CAROL** ALL CHILDREN'S CHOIRS AND CONGREGATION

*Away in a Manger LSB 365*

Text: Little Children's Book, Philadelphia, 1885, sts. 1-2; Vineyard Songs, Louisville, 1882, st. 3 alt.

Tune: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1883-1921; Setting: David Willcocks, 1919-2015

*All Children's Choirs:*

Away in a manger,  
No crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky  
Looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

*All Children's Choirs:*

The cattle are lowing,  
The baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus!  
Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

*All* : Be near me, Lord Jesus;

I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children  
In Thy tender care  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

**FIRST LESSON**

**Genesis 3:8-19**

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise  
and that the Seed of the woman will bruise the serpent's head.*

**CAROL** CONGREGATION*The Tree of Life LSB 561*

Text: Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955; Tune: Bruce W. Becker, b. 1952; Setting: Henry V. Gerike, b. 1948

1. The tree of life with ev'ry good  
In Eden's holy orchard stood,  
And of its fruit so pure and sweet  
God let the man and woman eat.  
Yet in this garden also grew  
Another tree, of which they knew;  
Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned  
Against whose eating God had warned.
2. The stillness of that sacred grove  
Was broken, as the serpent strove  
With tempting voice Eve to beguile  
And Adam too by sin defile.  
O day of sadness when the breath  
Of fear and darkness, doubt and death,  
Its awful poison first displayed  
Within the world so newly made.
3. What mercy God showed to our race,  
A plan of rescue by His grace:  
In sending One from woman's seed,  
The One to fill our greatest need—  
For on a tree uplifted high  
His only Son for sin would die,  
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread  
To crush the ancient serpent's head!
4. Now from that tree of Jesus' shame  
Flows life eternal in His name;  
For all who trust and will believe,  
Salvation's living fruit receive.  
And of this fruit so pure and sweet  
The Lord invites the world to eat,  
To find within this cross of wood  
The tree of life with ev'ry good.

**SECOND LESSON****Genesis 22:15-18***God promises Abraham that in his Seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.**Stand***CAROL** CONGREGATION*On Christmas Night LSB 377*

Text: Traditional English Carol; Tune: Sussex Carol; Setting: Joseph Herl, b. 1959

1. On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring,  
On Christmas night all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring,  
News of great joy, news of great mirth,  
News of our merciful King's birth.
2. Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
Then why should men on earth be so sad,  
Since our Redeemer made us glad,  
When from our sin He set us free,  
All for to gain our liberty?
3. When sin departs before His grace,  
Then life and health come in its place;  
When sin departs before His grace,  
Then life and health come in its place;  
Angels and men with joy may sing,  
All for to see the newborn King.
4. All out of darkness we have light  
Which made the angels sing this night:  
All out of darkness we have light  
Which made the angels sing this night:  
"Glory to God and peace to men  
Now and forevermore. Amen."

*Sit***THIRD LESSON****Isaiah 9:2-7***The prophet foretells the birth of the Savior.*

**CAROL ACADEMY CHOIR**

***How Long, the Prophets Cried***

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000; Setting: James E. Clemens, b. 1966

1. How long, the prophets cried, how long  
Before God puts an end to wrong,  
Before Messiah sets us free  
From ev'ry yoke and tyranny?  
How long, O Lord, how long?
2. Vengeance, they knew, belong to God;  
Who smites the wicked with His rod:  
But some, inspired by gospel grace,  
Saw mercy in Messiah's face.  
How long, O Lord, how long?
3. And now, at last, in God's good time  
Shall Mary come to Bethlehem,  
In great humility to bear  
The Prince of Peace as David's heir.  
He came, our Savior came!
4. These Advent days with loving care  
And childlike joy, let us prepare  
Our waiting churches, hearts and homes,  
To make Him welcome when He comes.  
He comes, our Savior comes!

**FOURTH LESSON**

**Isaiah 11:1-9**

*The Christ descends from Jesse and is anointed with the Holy Spirit.*

**CAROL CONGREGATION**

***Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming LSB 359***

Text: German, 16<sup>th</sup> cent., sts. 1-2, 4; Friedrich L. C. Layritz, 1808-59, st. 3; Translation: Theodore Baker 1851-1934, sts. 1-2, alt;  
Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4;  
Tune: *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, Köln, 1599; Setting: Michael Praetorius

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
As prophets long have sung,  
It came, a flow'ret bright,  
Amid the cold of winter,  
When half-spent was the night.
2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
The Rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it,  
The Virgin Mother kind.  
To show God's love aright  
She bore to us a Savior,  
When halfspent was the night.
3. This flow'r whose fragrance tender  
With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor  
The darkness ev'rywhere  
True man, yet very God,  
From sin and death He saves us  
And lightens ev'ry load.
4. O Savior, child of Mary,  
Who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, King of glory,  
Who dost our weakness know:  
Bring us at length we pray  
To the bright courts of heaven,  
And to the endless day.

## FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

*The Angel Gabriel announces the conception of the Son of God to the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

CAROL ACADEMY AND CANTATE CHOIRS

*Mary Wondered What It Meant*

Composer: Nancy Telfer, b. 1950

When Mary was a young woman,  
An angel came to bring her special news.  
“God is pleased with you,” said the angel fair.  
“You shall have a baby and his name shall be Jesus.  
He will rule your people as the Child of God.”

When Mary had the little baby,  
The shepherds came running to her side.  
“Angels came to us,” said the shepherd boy.  
“Angel voices singing told the story of the baby.  
He will be the Saviour; sing glory on high.”

**Refrain:** Mary wondered what it meant. Could the baby be the Christ?  
Mary wondered what it meant. Could he be the Child of God?  
Oh, Mary’s heart was filled with joy as she sang her praise to God.

When Mary rocked the sleeping baby,  
The wise men saw the star above the place.  
“Mother Mary, we have travelled far.  
Treasures for the baby we have brought from the East.  
He must be the Christ, the Holy Child of God.”

## SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

*St. Luke announces the birth of Jesus under the Emperor Caesar Augustus.*

*Stand*

CAROL CONGREGATION

*All My Heart Again Rejoices LSB 360*

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; Translation: Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662; Setting: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978

1. All my heart again rejoices  
As I hear  
Far and near  
Sweetest angel voices.  
“Christ is born!” their choirs are singing  
Till the air  
Ev’rywhere  
Now with joy is ringing.
2. Hear! The Conqueror has spoken:  
“Now the foe,  
Sin and woe,  
Death and hell are broken!”  
God is man, man to deliver,  
And the Son  
Now is one  
With our blood forever.

3. Should we fear our God's displeasure,  
Who, to save,  
Freely gave  
His most precious treasure?  
To redeem us He has given  
His own Son  
From the throne  
Of His might in heaven.

4. See the Lamb, our sin once taking  
To the cross,  
Suffering loss,  
Full atonement making.  
For our life His own He tenders,  
And His grace  
All our race  
Fit for glory renders.

5. Softly from His lowly manger  
Jesus calls  
One and all,  
"You are safe from danger.  
Children, from the sins that grieve you  
You are freed;  
All you need  
I will surely give you."

6. Come, then, banish all your sadness!  
One and all,  
Great and small,  
Come with songs of gladness.  
We shall live with Him forever  
There on high  
In that joy  
Which will vanish never.

*Sit*

## **SEVENTH LESSON**

**Luke 2:8-16**

*The Angel of the Lord announces the birth of Christ to the shepherds.*

## **CAROL ACADEMY CHOIR**

## ***Christmas Song***

Tune: Johannes Brahms, 1833-97; Arrangement and Text: John T. Burke, 1951-2020

The woods and fields were sleeping on that most holy night.  
The shepherds on the hillsides beheld a glorious light.  
From heav'n an angel suddenly appeared to them and sang;  
"Peace on earth; goodwill to all mankind."

Immediately the shepherds set out for Bethlehem.  
To guide their footsteps safely, a star shone forth to them.  
It led them to a manger stall where Jesus lay asleep.  
Slumber on, sleep, O Child who brings peace to all mankind.

They knelt beside the manger to praise the Holy Boy;  
With Mary and with Joseph their hearts were filled with joy.  
Their Lord had come to save the world as angels had foretold:  
"Peace on earth, goodwill to all mankind."

**CAROL** CONGREGATION

Text: French; tr. *The Crown of Jesus, Part 2*, London, 1862, alt.; Tune: French; Setting: Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

*Angels, We Have Heard on High* **LSB 368**

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.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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.

**EIGHTH LESSON**

**Matthew 2:1-12**

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

**CAROL** CANTATE CHOIR

Text: French Carol; Translation: Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936, sts. 1-2; David Willcocks, 1919-2015, st. 3;  
Arrangement: Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936

*What Is This Brilliant Light*

What is this brilliant light from heaven streaming across the darkened skies?  
Never before a star so radiant ever appeared before our eyes!  
What is this brilliant light from heaven streaming across the darkened skies?

In Bethlehem, in lowly manger, now is your Savior born this day.  
Hasten to worship and adore him, Bethlehem star will guide the way.  
In Bethlehem, in lowly manger, now is your Savior born this day.

Praise to the Lord of all creation, glory to God, the fount of grace.  
May peace abide in ev'ry nation, goodwill abide in ev'ry race.  
Praise to the Lord of all creation, and glory to God!  
Sing glory to God, the fount of grace. Sing glory to God!

*Stand*

**CAROL** CONGREGATION

***What Child Is This LSB 370***

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98; Tune: English, 16<sup>th</sup> cent; setting: John Stainer, 1840-1901, alt.

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!

**NINTH LESSON**

**John 1:1-18**

*St. John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation.*

*Sit*

**CAROL** CONGREGATION AND CHOIRS

***O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is***

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; Translation: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941; Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, sts. 3, 5, 6; Keith L. Vieregge, sts. 1, 2, 4

**All:**

1. O Jesus Christ, Thy manger is  
My paradise at which my soul reclineth.  
For there, O Lord, doth lie the Word  
Made flesh for us;  
Herein Thy grace forth shineth.

**All:**

3. Thy light and grace our guilt efface,  
Thy heav'nly riches all our loss retrieving.  
Immanuel, Thy birth doth quell  
The power of hell  
And Satan's bold deceiving.

**Choir:**

2. He whom the sea and wind obey  
Doth come to serve the sinner in great meekness.  
Thou, God's own Son, with us art one,  
Dost join us  
And our children in our weakness.

**Choir:**

4. Thou Christian heart, whoe'er thou art,  
Be of good cheer and let no sorrow move thee!  
For God's own Child, in mercy mild,  
Joins thee to Him;  
How greatly God must love thee!



*All:*

5. Remember thou what glory now  
The Lord prepared thee for all earthly sadness.  
The angel host can never boast  
Of greater glory,  
Greater bliss or gladness.

*All:*

6. The world may hold her wealth and gold;  
But thou, my heart, keep Christ as thy true Treasure.  
To Him hold fast until at last  
A crown be thine  
And honor in full measure.

## HOMILY

*Stand*

### PRAYERS

**P:** The Lord be with you.

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

**P:** Let us pray...

Grant, almighty God, that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in human flesh may set us free, who through sin are held in bondage; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** O God, as You make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of Your only-begotten 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 forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

**P:** May He who by His incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of God's peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**C:** **Amen.**

*Sit*

### CAROL CONGREGATION AND CHOIRS

### *See in Yonder Manger Low*

Text: Edward Caswall; Tune: John Goss, 1800-80; Setting: John A. Behnke; Arrangement: Keith L. Vieregge

*All:*

1. See in yonder manger low,  
Born for us on earth below,  
See, the gentle Lamb appears,  
Promised from eternal years.  
Hail, O ever blessed morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Men:*

2. Lo, within a stable lies  
He who built the starry skies,  
He who, throned in height sublime,  
Sits amid the cherubim.  
**All:** Hail, O ever blessed morn!  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!  
Sing through all Jerusalem:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

**Women and Children:**

3. Sacred Infant, all divine,  
What a tender love was Thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss  
Down to such a world as this.

**Men:** Hail, O ever blessed morn!

**Women:** Hail, redemption's happy dawn!

**All:** Sing through all Jerusalem:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

**All:**

4. Teach, O teach us, holy Child,  
By Thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble Thee  
In Thy sweet humility.

Hail, O ever blessed morn!

Hail, redemption's happy dawn!

Sing through all Jerusalem:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*The offering will be received at the door.*

## **Plan Ahead to Attend the Christmas Divine Services:**

**CHRISTMAS EVE DIVINE SERVICE AT 4:00 AND 6:00 P.M.**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT DIVINE SERVICE 8:00 P.M.**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY DIVINE SERVICE AT 9:30 A.M.**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE CONFESSIONAL SERVICE WITH HOLY COMMUNION AT 4:00 AND 6:30 P.M.**  
**NEW YEAR'S DAY DIVINE SERVICE AT 9:30 A.M.**

**LESSONS AND CAROLS WITH THE SENIOR CHOIR, JANUARY 3 AT 4:00 P.M.**

**EPIPHANY CHORAL DIVINE SERVICE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6 AT 6:45 P.M.**

## **Special Thanks to...**

**Cherub Choir:** Benjamin Anderson, Christian Anderson, Jacob Bender, Sarah Bender, Autumn Christopherson, Edith Hermanson, Levin Renner, Reagan Renner, Sarah Uttenreither, Olivia Volquardsen, Kali Welch

**Seraph Choir:** Tabitha Daleiden, William Daleiden, Wesley Giordano, Amber LaFore, Zoe LaFore, Elijah Mudge, Talitha Schneider, Gabriella Stec, Lena Stec

**Academy Choir:** Nathaniel Anderson, August Christopherson, Allison Hermanson, Derek Larson, Kathleen Larson, Rachael Ligrow, Sarah Ligrow, Matthias Raffa, Rachel Raffa, Wyatt Thoni, Hannah Uttenreither, Luke Uttenreither, Benjamin Volquardsen, Alec Welch

**Cantate Choir:** Rebecca Gierach, Daniel Haga, Nathan Haga, Lisa LaFore, Savannah LaFore, Nathan Mudge, Evan Plichta, Julia Plichta, Timothy Plichta, Hannah Riemer, Peter Stec

**Instrumentalists:** Violin – Rachel Haga, Flute – Ella Mudge

**Academy, Cantate, Cherub and Seraph Choir Director:** Katherine May

**Piano:** Christine Franklin; **Organ:** Katherine May; **Preacher:** Rev. Peter C. Bender