

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH and ACADEMY

Sussex, Wisconsin

December 18, 2022 – 3:00 p.m.

The Thirty-second Annual Christmas Service of Lessons & Carols

Featuring the Cherub, Seraph, Academy, Cantate,
and Senior Choirs of Peace Lutheran Church

Preservice Music

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel – arr. Robert J. Powell
Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine – arr. Robert J. Powell
Angels We Have Heard on High – arr. Jeffrey Blersch
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing – arr. Michael Burkhardt
What Star Is This? - Thomas Keesecker
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming – arr. Jeffrey Blersch

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.

Senior Choir:

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.

Treble Choir:

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

Three Carols from Three Places

Setting: David S. Walker

This Night There Comes to Bethlehem

Text: Beatrice Quickenden from *Five Dutch Carols*; Tune: 15th cent. Dutch melody

This night there comes to Bethlehem a Child.
Then sing, Jerusalem.
Amor, quam dulcis est amor!
(O love, what sweetness is His love!)

A manger holds this little One,
Almighty God's beloved Son.
Amor, quam dulcis est amor!

“Let peace be over all the earth,”
an angel cries at this sweet birth.
Amor, quam dulcis est amor!

Come Away to the Skies

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.; Tune: *Southern Harmony*

Come away to the skies, my beloved arise,
and rejoice in the day thou wast born;
On this festival day come exulting away,
And with singing to Zion return.

Now with singing and praise let us spend all our days
by our heavenly Father bestowed;
while His grace we receive from His bounty,
and live to the honor and glory of God.

Holy Child

Text: Melva Rorem, 1913-1993; Tune: Welsh Folk Song

Holy Child, angels sing
joyous news of the King.
Hallelu, Christ is born!
Hallelu, Christmas morn.

Mary's soft, gentle song
echos now, lingers long.
For the wind's melodies
waft her song through the trees.

We would kneel by him there
with a gift, with a prayer.
To this Child we would sing!
To this Child, praises ring!

Quodlibet

Combines all three carols with two groups of voices and flute.

FIRST LESSON KALI WELCH

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 SENIOR CHOIR

Once He Came in Blessing

Text: Johann Roh, 1487-1547, tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878; Setting: Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

Once He came in blessing, all our ills redressing;
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us, hope and freedom gave us.

Still He comes within us, still His voice would win us
From the sins that hurt us; would to truth convert us
From our foolish errors ere He come in terrors.

Thus, if thou hast known Him, not ashamed to own Him,
But wilt trust Him boldly nor dost love Him coldly,
He will then receive thee, heal thee, and forgive thee.

He who thus endureth bright reward secureth.
Come, then, O Lord Jesus, from our sins release us;
Let us here confess Thee till in heav'n we bless Thee.

SECOND LESSON NATHANIEL ANDERSON

Genesis 22:15-18

God promises Abraham that in his Seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.

CAROL CHOIRS AND CONGREGATION

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Seven Advent Acclamations: Text and Setting: Donald Rotermund, b. 1932

O Come, O Come Emmanuel: Text: Latin, 12th cent.; *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710,
tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.; Tune: French, 15th cent.; Setting: C. Winfred Douglas, 1867-1944

Choir:

1. Behold the name of the Lord cometh from far.
Let the whole earth be fill'd with His glory.

Choir:

2. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Make His paths straight. Alleluia!

Congregation:

O come, O Come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Choir:

3. Rejoice greatly, Jerusalem.
Behold, your King is coming.

Choir:

4. Come, O Lord, and do not tarry;
Loosen the bonds of Your people Israel.

Congregation:

O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribe on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Choir:

5. Out of Zion, the perfection
of beauty God hath shined.
Our God shall come, Alleluia!

Choir:

6. Behold, the Lord shall come
and all his saints with Him. Alleluia!
In that day the light shall be great,
Alleluia!

Congregation:

O Come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy might pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Choir:

7. Drop down, you heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness.
Let the earth open
and bring forth salvation.

THIRD LESSON TALITHA SCHNEIDER

Isaiah 9:2-7

The prophet foretells the birth of the Savior.

Stand

CAROL CONGREGATION

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88; Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-47; Setting: David Willcocks, 1919-2015

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 the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

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 the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Sit

FOURTH LESSON MATTHIAS RAFFA

Isaiah 11:1-9

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

CAROL SENIOR CHOIR

From Heav’n Above to Earth I Come

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546, tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78; Tune: *Geistliche Lieder*, Leipzig, 1539.;
Setting: Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621, ed. Richard Wienhorst, 1920-2010

From heav’n above to earth I come to bear good news to ev’ry home.
Glad tidings of great joy I bring, whereof I now will say and sing.

To you this night is born a Child of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little Child, of lowly birth, shall be the joy of all the earth.

FIFTH LESSON BENJAMIN VOLQUARSEN

Luke 1:26-38

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

CAROL CONGREGATION

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came LSB 356

Text and tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.; Paraphrase: Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924; Setting: C. Edgar Pettman, 1865-1943

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| <p>1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow,
with eyes as flame.
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
“Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!</p> <p>2. “For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel,
by seers foretold,
“Most highly favored lady,” Gloria!</p> | <p>3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify
God’s holy name.”
Most highly favored lady. Gloria!</p> <p>4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world
will ever say:
“Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!</p> |
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CAROL ALL CHOIRS

Gabriel’s Message Does Away

Text: *Piae Cantiones*, 1582, tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66; Setting: Kevin Hildebrand b. 1973

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| <p>1. Gabriel’s message does away
Satan’s curse and Satan’s sway,
out of darkness brings our Day:
So, behold, all the gates of heav’n unfold.</p> <p>2. He that comes despised shall reign;
He that cannot die, be slain;
death by death its death shall gain:
So, behold, all the gates of heav’n unfold.</p> | <p>3. Weakness shall the strong confound;
by the hands, in grave clothes wound,
Adam’s chains shall be unbound.
So, behold, all the gates of heav’n unfold.</p> <p>4. By the sword that was his own,
by that sword, and that alone,
shall Goliath be o’er-thrown;
So, behold, all the gates of heav’n unfold.</p> <p>5. Art by art shall be assailed;
to the cross shall Life be nailed;
from the grave shall hope be hailed:
So, behold, all the gates of heav’n unfold.</p> |
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SIXTH LESSON ALEC WELCH

Luke 2:1-7

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

CAROL ACADEMY AND CANTATE CHOIRS

Text: Percy Dearmer, coll.1867-1936; Setting: Paul Bouman, 1918-2019

The Babe in Bethlem's Manger Laid

1. The babe in Bethlem's manger laid
In humble form so low;
By wond'ring angels is surveyed
Through all his scenes of woe.
2. A Savior! Sinners all around
Sing, shout the wondrous word;
Let ev'ry bosom hail the sound,
A Savior! Christ the Lord.
3. For not to sit on David's throne
With worldly pomp and joy,
He came on earth for sin to atone,
And Satan to destroy.
4. To preach the word of life divine,
And feed the living bread,
To heal the sick with hand benign
And raise to life the dead.
5. Well may we sing a Savior's birth,
Who need the grace so giv'n,
And hail his coming down to earth,
Who raises us to heav'n.

SEVENTH LESSON REBECCA GIERACH

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

Luke 2:8-16

CAROL ACADEMY AND CANTATE CHOIRS

Text: Polish Carol, tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt.; Tune: Polish Carol; Setting: Jeffrey Blersch, b. 1967

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

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!	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!
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Stand

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.
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.
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.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Sit

EIGHTH LESSON JASON PETERSEN

Matthew 2:1-12

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

CAROL SENIOR CHOIR

Text: Herman Fick, 1822-85; Tune: *Southern Harmony*, New Haven, 1835; Setting: Keith L. Vieregge, b. 1958

Rise, O Light of Gentile Nations

Rise, O Light of Gentile nations,
Jesus, bright and Morning Star;
Let Your Word, the gladsome tidings,
Ring out loudly near and far,
Bringing freedom to the captives,
Peace and comfort to the slave,
That the heathen, free from bondage,
May proclaim Your power to save.

Knowing You and Your salvation,
Grateful love dare never cease
To proclaim Your tender mercies,
Gracious Lord, Your heav'nly peace.
Let us sound the gospel tidings
To the earth's remotest bound
That the sinner has been pardoned
And forgiveness can be found.

Savior, shine in all Your glory
On the nations near and far;
From the highways and the byways
Call them forth, O Morning Star.
Guide them whom Your grace has chosen
Out of Satan's dreadful thrall
To the mansions of your Father
There is room for sinners all.

Stand

NINTH LESSON REV. BRENNICK CHRISTIANSEN

John 1:1-18

St. John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation.

Sit

CAROL SENIOR CHOIR

Verbum Caro Factum Est

Text: Anon. 15th cent. English Carol, tr. Brennick Christiansen, b. 1992; Tune: 15th cent. English Carol;
Setting: Richard Proulx, 1937-2010

Latin:

Verbum caro factum est;
Habitavit in nobis.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Translation:

The word became flesh;
[and] dwelt among us.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Notum fecit Dominus
Salutare suum.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Lord made known
His own salvation.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Prope invocavit me
Pater meus es tu.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

He called me near.
You are my Father.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

HOMILY REV. BRENNICK CHRISTIANSEN

CAROL CONGREGATION AND CHOIRS

Of the Father's Love Begotten LSB 384

Text: Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 348-c. 413; Translation: John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, sts. 1-4, alt,
Henry W. Baker, 1821-1877, st. 5; Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V; Setting: Thomas Gieschen, 1931-2006

1. Choir:

Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the Source, the ending He,
Of the things that are that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

3. Congregation:

This is He whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord;
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

2. Choir:

Oh, that birth forever blessed
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.

4. Congregation:

O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing.
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him;
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent;
Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

Stand

5. Congregation:

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.

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

Text: Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt.; Tune: John Goss, 1800-80; Setting: John A. Behnke, b. 1953

See in Yonder Manger Low

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

NEW YEAR'S EVE CONFESSIONAL SERVICE AT 5:00 P.M.
NEW YEAR'S DAY DIVINE SERVICE AT 9:30 A.M.

EPIPHANY DIVINE SERVICE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4 AT 6:30 P.M.

Special Thanks to...

Cherub/Seraph Choirs: Christian Anderson, Elizabeth Bender, Jacob Bender, Mary Bender, Autumn Christopherson, Felicity Daleiden, Tabitha Daleiden, Elias Giordano, Wesley Giordano, Gabrielle Hartwig, Beatrice Hermanson, Ethan Krueger, Zoe LaFore, Emma Raffa, Lydia Schneider, Olivia Volquardsen, Kali Welch

Academy/Cantate Choirs: Benjamin Anderson, Nathaniel Anderson, Sarah Bender, August Christopherson, William Daleiden, Rebecca Gierach, Allison Hermanson, Edith Hermanson, Amber LaFore, Lisa LaFore, Savannah LaFore, Kathleen Larson, Evan Plichta, Julia Plichta, Timothy Plichta, Matthias Raffa, Rachel Raffa, Emily Schlueter, Talitha Schneider, Wyatt Thoni, Benjamin Volquardsen, Alec Welch

Senior Choir: Soprano – Carol Bender, Verla Gatchell, Maggie Gehlbach, Susan Gehlbach, Sharon Martin, Sherry Prowatzke, Sarah Riemer, Kara Rhode; Alto – Beth Boehringer, Angela Christopherson, Louise Johnson, Kayla Kütemeier, Sharon Murphy, Mary Ellen Nitzsche; Tenor – Rev. Gary Gehlbach, Cheri LaFore, Larry Martin, Kerry Welch; Bass – Andrew Bender, Randy Kirk, Keith Kunkel, Cole Petersen, Jason Petersen

Instrumentalists: Flute – Kayla Kütemeier; Oboe – Beth Boehringer
Rhythm Instruments – Beth Boehringer, Angela Christopherson, Elisabeth Schneider
Chimes – Jordan Fischer, Christine Franklin, Amy Hermanson, Peter Hermanson

Academy, Cantate, Cherub and Seraph Choirs Director: Katherine May

Senior Choir Director: Rev. Peter C. Bender

Piano: Christine Franklin, Jordan Fischer

Organ: Katherine May

Preacher: Rev. Brennick Christensen