PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH and ACADEMY

Sussex, Wisconsin

December 17, 2023 - 3:00 p.m.

The Thirty-third Annual Christmas Service of Lessons & Carols

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

Preservice Music

Silent Night – arr. William Palmer
O Holy Night – arr. Nancy Faber
Angels We Have Heard on High – arr. Benjamin M. Culli
Away in a Manger- arr. Michael Burkhardt
We Three Kings – arr. Michael Burkhardt
Patapan – arr. Myanna Harvey
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear – arr. Mayanna Harvey
Prelude on "Christmas Day" – Gustav Holst/arr. James Mansfield

CAROL CONGREGATION AND CHOIRS

Once in Royal David's City

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

All Children's Choirs:

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:

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

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Text: Jean de Brebeuf, 1593-1649; Translation: Jesse E. Middleton, 1872-1960, alt.; Tune: French folk tune, c. 16th cent.; Setting: Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962

'Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled.
That God, the Lord of all the earth, sent angel choirs instead.
Before their light the stars grew dim, and wond'ring hunters heard the hymn: Jesus your King is born! Jesus is born! Glory be to God on high!

The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory around the infant there.
And when the shepherds then drew near

the angel voices rang out clear: Jesus your King is born! Jesus is born!

Glory be to God on high!

O children of the forest free, the angels' song is true. The holy child of earth and heav'n is born today for you. Come, kneel before the radiant boy, who brings you beauty, peace, and joy. Jesus your King is born! Jesus is born! Glory be to God on high!

CAROL ALL CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

Now, On Land and Sea Descending

Text: Samuel Longfellow, 1819-1892; Tune: A Selection of Popular National Airs, 1818; Composer: Michael Burkhardt, b. 1957

Now, on land and sea descending, brings the night its peace profound; Let our vesper hymn be blending with the holy calm around. Jubilate! (Rejoice!) Amen! Dona nobis pacem. (Grant us peace.)

CAROL SENIOR CHOIR

Up Good Christen Folk and Listen

Text: G. R. Woodward, 1848-1934; Tune: Piae Cantiones, 1582; Harmonization: G. R. Woodward

Ding-dong, ding: Ding-a-dong-a-ding: Ding-dong, ding dong: Ding-a-dong-ding.

Up! Good Christen folk, and listen

How the merry church bells ring,

And from steeple bid good people

Come adore the newborn King:

Tell the story how from glory

God came down at Christmastide,

Bringing gladness, chasing sadness,

Show'ring blessings far and wide,

Born of mother, blest o'er other, Ex Maria Virgine, [Out of the Virgin Mary] In a stable ('tis no fable), Christus natus hodie. [Christ is born today]

FIRST LESSON ELIZABETH BENDER/MARY BENDER

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 ACADEMY, CANTATE AND SENIOR CHOIRS

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Text: Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs, compiled by Joshua Smith, 1784; Setting: Elizabeth Poston, 1905-87

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.
For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:

By faith I know, but ne'er can tell,
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive; Which makes my soul in haste to be With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

SECOND LESSON OLIVIA VOLQUARDSEN

Genesis 22:1-18

The Sacrifice of Isaac and the Seed of Abraham shall bring the blessing of salvation to all nations.

CAROL SENIOR CHOIR

Carol of the Lamb

Text: Lisa M. Clark, b. 1982; Composer: David von Kampen, b. 1986

Little lamb, peer in the stall; See the Lamb of God for all. Wonder how this sacrifice silently will pay the price. Through the valley He will tread, up a hill to bow His head. In a garden, He will rise; Pastures green will be the prize. Weary shepherd, come find rest; In a stable be a guest. Gather near your Shepherd Good; He can lead where no one could. Staff and rod Himself will bear, streams of life with you to share. In His house, forever dwell, His unending mercies tell.

THIRD LESSON EDITH HERMANSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

The prophet foretells the birth of the Savior.

CAROL SENIOR CHOIR

O Jesus, Grant Me Hope and Comfort

Text: Wilhelm Osterwald, 1820-87; Translator and Editor: Walter E. Buszin, 1899-1973; Tune: Johann Wolfgang Franck, 1644-1710; Setting: Carl Stein, 1824-1902

O Jesus, grant me hope and comfort;
O let me ne'er in sorrow pine,
My heart and soul, yea, all my being,
O Jesus, trust alone in Thee.
Thou Prince of Peace,
Thou Pearl from heaven,
True God, true Man, My Morning Star!
O come Thou precious Sun most radiant,

Thy beams illumine my heart and soul.

O Jesus, with Thy advent quiet
My restless soul and anxious mind.
In true humility I welcome Thee
Jesus Christ, my Joy divine.
My thoughts, desires,
and all my longings
I dedicate, O Christ, to Thee.
O come Thou precious Sun most radiant,
Thy beams illumine my heart and soul.

Stand

CAROL CONGREGATION - CHOIR SINGS STANZA 3 On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

Lutheran Service Book 377

Sit

FOURTH LESSON SARAH BENDER

Isaiah 11:1-9

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

CAROL CANTATE AND ACADEMY CHOIRS

In Dulci Jubilo

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; Translation: Robert Pearsall, 1795-1856; Tune: Traditional German; Setting: Ian Higginson, b. 1959

In dulci jubilo (In sweet rejoicing)
Let us our homage shew;
Our heart's joy reclineth,
In praesepio (In manger stall)
And like a bright star shineth,
Matris in gremio. (In the mother's lap)
Alpha es et O, (You are first and last)

Alpha es et O.

O Jesu parvule! (O tiny Jesus)
I yearn for Thee alway!
Hear me, I beseech Thee,
O Puer optime! (O excellent Boy)
My prayer let it reach Thee,
O Princeps gloriae! (O Prince of glory)
Trahe me post te, (Draw me after You)
Trahe me post te.

O Patris caritas, (O Father's Love) O Nati lenitas! (O born in meekness)

Deeply were we stained,

Per nostra crimina; (by way of our crimes)

But Thou hast for us gained,

Coelorum gaudia. (the joys of heaven)

O that we were there, O that we were there!

Ubisunt gaudia, (Where are the joys)

If that they be not there? There are angels singing, *Nova cantica*, (New songs) There the bells are ringing,

In Regis curia: (In the King's court)

O that we were there, O that we were there!

FIFTH LESSON SARAH LIGROW

Luke 1:26-38

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

CAROL SENIOR CHOIR

Still, Still, Still

Text: German Carol; Translation: Meg Peacocke, b. 1930; Setting: Philip Ledger, 1937-2012

Still, still, still, let all the world be still, For Mary lays her son to rest, Sings to him softly at her breast, Still, still, still, let all the world be still. Sleep, sleep, sleep my dearest baby sleep. The angels all rejoice and sing, Heav'n for your delight shall ring,

Sleep, sleep, sleep my dearest baby sleep.

Joy, joy, joy, my heart is filled with joy! The God of love has left his throne, Made this humble world his own, Joy, joy, joy, my heart is filled with joy!

CAROL CONGREGATION

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Lutheran Service Book 374

SIXTH LESSON AUGUST CHRISTOPHERSON

Luke 2:1-7

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

Text: Traditional Irish Carol; Setting: Ken Berg, b. 1955

Good people all, this Christmastide, consider well and bear in mind what our good God for us has done in sending His beloved Son. With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas day; In Bethlehem upon that morn there was a blessed Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep; To whom God's angels did appear which put the shepherds in great fear. "Prepare and go," the angel said, "to Bethlehem, be not afraid; for there you'll find, this happy morn A princely babe, sweet Jesus born."

With thankful hearts and joyful mind The shepherds went the babe to find, and as God's angel had foretold, they did our Savior Christ behold. Within a manger He was laid and by His side the virgin maid, attending on the Lord of Life who came on earth to end all strife.

CAROL CONGREGATION AND SENIOR CHOIR

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-93; Tune: English traditional melody; Setting: Ralph Vaughn Williams, 1872-1958, and Thomas Armstrong (st. 4), 1898-1994

All:

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.

All:

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.

Choir:

3. How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

All:

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:
 O come to us, abide with us,
 Our Lord Emmanuel.

SEVENTH LESSON PASTOR GEHLBACH

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

CAROL CONGREGATION AND SENIOR CHOIR

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Text and Tune: English traditional carol; Setting: David Willcocks, 1919-2015

All:

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:
 O tidings of comfort and joy,
 Comfort and joy,
 O tidings of comfort and joy.

Choir:

From God our heav'nly Father
 A blessèd angel came,
 And unto certain shepherds
 Brought tidings of the same,
 How that in Bethlehem was born
 The Son of God by name:
 O tidings of comfort and joy,
 Comfort and joy,
 O tidings of comfort and joy.

All:

3. The shepherds at those tidings
Rejoicèd much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding
In tempest, storm and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straightway
This blessèd babe to find:
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Treble Choir:

4. But when to Bethlehem they came, Whereat this infant lay, They found him in a manger, Where oxen feed on hay; His mother Mary kneeling, Unto the Lord did pray: O tidings of comfort and joy, Comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

All:

Now to the Lord sing praises,
 All you within this place,
 And with true love and brotherhood
 Each other now embrace;
 This holy tide of Christmas
 All others doth deface:
 O tidings of comfort and joy,
 Comfort and joy,
 O tidings of comfort and joy.

CAROL CONGREGATION AND SENIOR CHOIR

Away in a Manager 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:

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.

Choir:

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.

EIGHTH LESSON PASTOR CHRISTIANSEN

Matthew 2:1-12

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

CAROL ACADEMY AND CANTATE CHOIRS

What Child Is This

Text: William Chatterton Dix, 1837-98; Tune: English, 16th cent; setting: Malcolm Archer, b. 1952

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!

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!

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!

CAROL CONGREGATION AND CHOIRS

O Savior of Our Fallen Race (LSB 403)

Bathes all the world in radiance bright,

One precious truth outshines the sun:

5. For from the Father's throne You came,

The love of Him who sent You here.

For You have washed our guilt away.

O hear the glad new song we sing

On this, the birthday of our King!

His banished children to reclaim;

And earth and sea and sky revere

Salvation comes from You alone.

4. Today, as year by year its light

Text: Latin, c. 5th-10th cent.; Translation: Gilbert E. Doan, b. 1930 Tune and Setting st. 2 and 4: Stephen R. Johnson, b. 1966

Choir:

All:

All:

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

6. And we are jubilant today,

All:

O Savior of our fallen race,
 O Brightness of the Father's face,
 O Son who shared the Father's might
 Before the world knew day or night,
 Alleluia!

Choir:

2. O Jesus, very Light of Light,
Our constant star in sin's deep night:
Now hear the prayers Your people pray
Throughout the world this holy day.
Alleluia!

All:

3. Remember, Lord of life and grace, How once, to save our fallen race, You put our human vesture on And came to us as Mary's son. Alleluia!

All - Stand

7. O Christ, Redeemer virgin-born, Let songs of praise Your name adorn, Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Spirit evermore. Alleluia!

Stand

NINTH LESSON PASTOR BENDER

John 1:1-18

St. John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation.

Sit

CAROL CONGREGATION AND SENIOR CHOIR

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. 1, 3, 5, 6; Keith L. Vieregge, b. 1958, sts. 2, 4

All:

 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.

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.

All:

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:

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:

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:

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 REV. BRENNICK CHRISTIANSEN

Stand

CAROL CONGREGATION AND CHOIRS

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Text: John F. Wade, 1711-86; Translation: Frederick Oakeley, 1802-80, alt.; Tune: John F. Wade Setting: David Willcocks, 1919-2015

All:

O Come, all ye faithful,
 Joyful and triumphant!
 O come ye, O come-- ye to Bethlehem;
 Come and behold Him
 Born the king of angels:
 O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him,
 Christ the Lord!

Choir:

Highest, most holy,
 Light of Light eternal,
 Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
 Son of the Father
 Now in flesh appearing!
 O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him,
 O christ the Lord!

All:

Sing, choirs of angels,
 Sing in exultation,
 Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
 Glory to God- In-- the-- highest:
 O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him,
 Christ the Lord!

All:

4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee Born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee-- be-- glory giv'n! Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

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

All:

See amid the winter's snow,
 Born for us on earth below,
 See, the gentle Lamb appears,
 Promised from eternal years.
 Hail, O ever blessed morn!
 Hail, redemption's happy d

Hail, redemption's happy dawn! Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Men:

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, O ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn! Sing through all Jerusalem: "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

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 SATURDAY, JANUARY 6 AT 5:00 P.M.

Special Thanks to...

Cherub/Seraph Choirs: Elizabeth Bender, Mary Bender, Lydia Christiansen, Silas Christiansen, Felicity Daleiden, Elias Giordano, Gabrielle Hartwig, Greta Hartwig, Ethan Krueger, Lydia Schneider, Ruth Schneider

Academy/Cantate Choirs: Jacob Bender, Sarah Bender, Autumn Christopherson, Tabitha Daleiden, William Daleiden, Wesley Giordano, Beatrice Hermanson, Edith Hermanson, Amber LaFore, Savannah LaFore, Zoe LaFore, Kathleen Larson, Rachael Ligrow, Sarah Ligrow, Evan Plichta, Julia Plichta, Emily Schlueter, Talitha Schneider, Benjamin Volquardsen, Olivia Volquardsen, Kali Welch

Senior Choir: Soprano – Verla Gatchell, Maggie Gehlbach, Susan Gehlbach, Rebecca Gierach, Lisa LaFore, Savannah LaFore, Sharon Martin, Sherry Prowatzke, Sarah Riemer, Kara Rhode; Alto – Beth Boehringer, Angela Christopherson, Louise Johnson, Kayla Kütemeier, Lynn Leider, Sharon Murphy, Mary Ellen Nitzsche; Tenor – Cheri LaFore, Larry Martin, Matthew Voss, Alec Welch, Kerry Welch; Bass – Andrew Bender, Randy Kirk, Keith Kunkel, Caleb Ligrow, Cole Petersen, Jason Petersen, Joseph Schneider

Instrumentalists: Flute – Kayla Kütemeier; French Horn – Peggy Lundberg;

Violin – Sarah May; Chimes – Beth Boehringer, Rebecca Gierach, Sarah Riemer, Kara Rhode,

Kerry Welch; Finger Cymbals – Susan Gehlbach

Pre-service Music: Cello – Elisabeth Schneider, Talitha Schneider; Piano – Jordan Fischer, Lydia

Schneider, Talitha Schneider; Oboe – Beth Boehringer

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

Senior Choir Director: Rev. Peter C. Bender

Piano: Christine Franklin **Organ:** Katherine May

Preacher: Rev. Brennick T. Christensen