



LESSONS
& CAROLS

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and School

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Lessons and Carols

First Sunday after Christmas

December 27, 2020

Pre-Service Music

Welcome

Sharing Christmas Blessings

Invocation *You may make the sign of the T cross in remembrance of your Baptism*

L In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Collect:

L We pray together:

C Gracious Father, Your Son once opened the minds of His disciples to the Holy Scriptures. Likewise open our ears, hearts, minds, and spirits this day, so that as Your Holy Word is read, sung, and heard, Your Spirit may establish in us true faith in Your Son, the newborn Savior of Bethlehem, Jesus, Who was born to live, die, and rise from the dead to save us from sin and death and raise us to new life – life with Him, with You, and with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Carol:

“Once in Royal David’s City”

LSB # 376:1-2

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.

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A Psalm of Praise:

Psalm 98

Aaron Powell; NIV

L Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things;
His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

C The Lord has made His salvation known
and revealed His righteousness to the nations.

L He has remembered His love and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

C Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music;

L Make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing,

C With trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn
– shout for joy before the Lord, the King.

L Let the sea resound and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

C Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy;

- L Let them sing before the Lord, for He comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.
- C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
- L Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things;
His right hand the His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.
- C The Lord has made His salvation known
and revealed His righteousness to the nations.

A Reading: John 1:1-18 – The Apostle John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation

Aaron Powell

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was in the beginning with God. [3] All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. [4] In him was life, and the life was the light of men. [5] The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

[6] There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. [7] He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. [8] He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

[9] The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. [10] He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. [11] He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. [12] But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, [13] who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

[14] And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. [15] (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) [16] And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. [17] For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. [18] No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

We continue by singing “O Sing of Christ”

Hymn:

“O Sing of Christ”

LSB # 362:1,4



1 O sing of Christ, whose birth made known The kind-ness of the Lord,
4 Lord Je-sus Christ, You deigned to dwell A-mong us here on earth



E - ter - nal Word made flesh and bone So we could be re - stored.
As God with us, Em - man - u - el, To bring this ho - ly birth.



Up - on our frail hu - man-i - ty God's fin - ger chose to trace
Though rich, You will - ing - ly be - came One with our pov - er - ty,



The full-ness of His de - i - ty, The i - con of His grace.
That we might share Your wealth and name For all e - ter - ni - ty!

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A Reading: Genesis 3:1-15, 17-19 – Man falls into sin and death, but God promises

One who would crush the head of Satan

Donna Foltman

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” [2] And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, [3] but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” [4] But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. [5] For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” [6] So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. [7] Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

[8] And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. [9] But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" [10] And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." [11] He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" [12] The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." [13] Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

[14] The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. [15] I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." ...

And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; [18] thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. [19] By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God. *We continue by singing "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"*

Hymn: "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord" *LSB # 352:1-2,5*

1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly
 2 What the Fathers most de-sired, What the proph-ets'
 kept His word And at last to us did send
 heart in-spired, What they longed for man-ya year,
 Christ, the sin-ner's help and friend.
 Stands ful-filled in glo-ry here.

5. Bruise for me the serpent's head • That, set free from doubt and dread,
 I may cling to You in faith • Safely kept through life and death.

A Reading: Genesis 22:15-18 – *God promises faithful Abraham that through his Descendant all nations on earth will be blessed*
Jamie Yonkers

And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven [16] and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, [17] I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, [18] and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God. *We continue by singing "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"*

Hymn: "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord" *LSB # 352:3-4,6*

3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
 4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of
 Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
 gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me
 Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
 Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

6. Then when You will come again • As the glorious king to reign,
 I with joy will see Your face • Freely ransomed by Your grace.

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A Reading: 2 Samuel 7:8-13, 16 – *God promises to faithful David that his Descendant would rule over an eternal kingdom*
 Sara Stafford

Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. [9] And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. [10] And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, [11] from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. [12] When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. [13] He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ... [16] And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’ “

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God. *We continue by singing “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come”*

Hymn: “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come” *LSB # 350:1,4*



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for
 4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!
 sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty
 Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.
 we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

A Reading: Micah 5:2-5a (*Stand to speak in UNISON*) *Sara Stafford*
 – *Micah prophesies that the Messiah is to be born in Bethlehem in Judea*

C “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for Me One Who will be ruler over Israel, Whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of His brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they will live securely, for then His greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And He will be their peace.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God. *L We continue by singing the Carol: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

Carol: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” *Public Domain; LSB # 361*



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
 While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.
 Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

A Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10 – *Isaiah prophesies that the Messiah, a descendant of Jesse, will rule over a kingdom of eternal peace*
Jon Meyer

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples— of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

We continue by singing the Hymn: “Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming”



Hymn

“Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming”

LSB # 359

Dylan Rains, Clarinet, obbligato



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

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A Reading: Isaiah 7:13-14 – *Isaiah prophesies that the Messiah will be born to a virgin and will be called Immanuel*
Jon Meyer

And [Isaiah] said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? [14] Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God. *We continue by singing the carol: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

Carol: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *LSB # 357:1,4-5,7*
accompanied by piano, guitar & drums

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 And ransom captive Israel,
 That mourns in lonely exile here
 Until the Son of God appear.

4. O come, Thou Branch of Jesse’s tree,
 Free them from Satan’s tyranny
 That trust Thy mighty pow’r to save,
 And give them vict’ry o’er the grave.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel • Shall come to thee, O Israel!

5. O come, Thou Key of David, come,
 And open wide our heav’nly home;
 Make safe the way that leads on high,
 And close the path to misery.

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
 In one the hearts of all mankind;
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
 And be Thyself our King of Peace.

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A Reading: Luke 1:26-38 – *The angel Gabriel announces the conception of Jesus, the Son of God, to the Virgin Mary*
Carol Brown

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, [27] to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. [28] And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” [29] But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. [30] And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. [31] And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. [32] 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 father David, [33] and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

[34] And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

[35] And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God. [36] And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. [37] For nothing will be impossible with God.” [38] And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God. *We continue with the Hymn “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”*

Hymn: “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” *LSB # 356*



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 “To me be as it pleas - eth God,” she said.
 In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 “My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”
 And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 “Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!

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A Reading: Matthew 1:18-25 – *The Divine conception of Jesus, the promised Savior,*
Paul Brown *is revealed to Joseph*

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. [19] And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. [20] But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. [21] She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” [22] All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: [23] “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). [24] When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, [25] but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God. *We continue by singing the Song: “Jesus, Name Above All Names”*
Please note: that this song will be sung 3 times: First by Women; then by Men; finally by All

Song: **“Jesus, Name Above All Names”** LSB # 970
This song will be sung 3 times: first time by Women; then by Men; last by All.

Je - sus, name a-bove all names, Beau-ti-ful
 Sav - ior, glo-ri-ous Lord. Em-
 man - u - el, God is with us, Bless-ed Re-
 deem - er, liv - ing Word.

A Reading: Luke 2:1-7 – *St. Luke tells of Jesus' birth* (Stand to speak in UNISON)

Greg Scheiwe

C And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem (because he was of the house and lineage of David); To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. — *King James Version*

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God. L We continue by singing the Carol: “Away in a Manger”

Carol: **“Away in a Manger”** *Nadia Powell, flute obbligato; LSB # 364*

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask Thee to stay
 The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head.
 But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes.
 Close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.
 The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
 I love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in Thy ten - der care,
 The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 And take us to heav - en to live with Thee there.

A Reading: Luke 2:8-14 – The angel announces the birth of the Savior to the shepherds

Sandi Meyer

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. KJV

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God. We continue by singing “Angels from the Realms of Glory/Emmanuel”

Carol: “Angels from the Realms of Glory / Emmanuel”

*accompanied with piano, guitar & drums
NEEDS to be PROJECTED!*

A Reading: Luke 2:15-20 – The shepherds go the manger to visit the newborn Savior

Sandi Meyer

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. KJV

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God. We continue by singing the Carol: “What Child Is This”

Intro and 1st verse accompanied with GUITAR only

Verses 2 & 3; GUITAR & PIANO

Carol:

“What Child Is This?”

LSB # 370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

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Our Offerings in Response to God's Word

To maximize health & safety for all, offering plates will not be passed during the service.

You are encouraged to place your tithes and offerings in the plate on a stand at the door to the worship area.

You also may give them online or by mailing them to the church.

We thank God for your ongoing generosity in supporting

His work at Mt. Olive during this challenging time.

Musical Offering:

“Silent Night”

Evan Rains, saxophone

Prayers of the Church

- L Lord, hear the prayers of Your people and grant to us and all people all those things which are needful and beneficial for the sake of Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
- L We pray for the Church, the people of God, to whom He has revealed His Son as Savior and Redeemer, that we may enjoy the gift of good and faithful ministers, and that the Lord may prosper His Word and grant it to bring fruit in every place and time. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
- L We pray for our nation and leaders, especially during this transition between presidential administrations, that the Lord may grant them wisdom in their pursuit of justice and integrity in carrying out their offices. We also pray for the cause of peace in the world and relief for those who suffer oppression. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
- L We pray for the protection of life from its natural beginning to its natural end: for the unborn, for the newly born, for young children, for teens, for young adults, for those in mid-life, and for those facing the end of their earthly days. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
- L We pray for the renewal of our fellowship as the living Body of Christ, for families, for husbands and wives, for those desiring to be married, for those blessed by the Lord in a single life, and for the lonely who yearn to know the comfort of friendship and family. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
- L We pray for the sick and those who suffer any affliction of the body or mind, especially as the result of the pandemic, that the Lord may grant them healing in accordance with His will and timing. We also pray for those who give aid and care to the sick. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
- L We pray for the grieving who have suffered the loss of one they have loved, especially for those who have lost infants or children, or who have lost a loved one to CoViD-19. We also pray for those in their last days, that the Lord may give them peace at the last, and for the day when finally we shall be reunited with those who have died in Christ and will be raised with them to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

- L We pray for grateful hearts, that we may receive all the Lord's gifts with joy and use them wisely according to His will and for His glory. We pray for everyone everywhere who are suffering privation because of the pandemic. We also pray for Jesus' grace, that our daily lives of worship may be pleasing in His sight. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
- L We pray for the Holy Spirit to increase our joy and sustain us in this joy and thanksgiving throughout the days of this Christmas season, until that day when at last the Lord returns in His glory as Judge and Lord of all. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
- Here various other prayer petitions, silent or spoken, may be prayed, each ending:*
L Lord, in Your mercy, C hear our prayer.
- L Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom and for which we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, Immanuel – “God with us,” who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Lord's Prayer:

- L Taught by our Lord and trusting in His promises, we are bold to pray:
C Our Father Who 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 who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Musical Offering: “Go Tell It on the Mountain” *Joni Klawitter & Off the Cuff*

Closing Prayer

- L O Lord, You have told us that Your Word was written so that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing we may have life in His name. Grant, therefore, by the working of the Holy Spirit, that we may truly believe Your Word, trust that Jesus was born to live, to die, and to rise for us, so that we now also shall live, die, and rise in this same faith unto life everlasting. This we pray through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

The Benedicamus and Benediction

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

L The Lord bless us and keep us

The Lord make His Face to shine upon us and be gracious to us.

The Lord look upon us with His favor and give T us His peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

C Amen.

A Final Carol:

“Once in Royal David’s City”

LSB # 356:4-5

4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His
own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and
gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He
leads His chil-dren on To the place where He is gone.

5. Not in that poor, lowly stable • With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven, • Set at God’s right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned • All in white, His praise will sound!

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Announcements *(next page)* / Post-Service Music

T T T

Reminders:

This coming Sunday, December 27, will be our annual Lessons & Carols service at 9:00 am.

Although the 4th Sunday of the month, the Lord’s Supper will NOT be celebrated that day.

There will be NO in-person Divine Service at Mt. Olive on New Year’s Eve, December 31.

Our regular schedule of Divine Services and celebrations of the Lord’s Supper will resume next week, the first weekend of January. Since it will be a weekend with a first Sunday of the month, the Lord’s Supper will be celebrated during the 5:00 pm service on THIS Saturday, January 2, 2021.

T T T

As you leave His Service today,

*God wants you to be assured that ALL your sins have been forgiven
and that He has declared you to be His holy, beloved child,
an heir of an eternal, never-ending relationship with Him,
by His Grace through faith in His incarnate Son, Jesus Christ!*

A Blessed Christmas & New Year to You All!!

T T T

