

The Nativity of our Lord

Christmas Eve

# **Welcome to Gloria Dei!**

The name *Gloria Dei* is a Latin phrase meaning *God's glory*. We pray that here you will find his glory and love chiefly revealed in our Savior Jesus. May your time in worship be edifying and enable you to focus on Jesus as the solution to your sin and as the certainty of eternal life in heaven.

Should you need a **restroom** during the service, you will find them in the Fellowship Hall directly beneath the sanctuary. Exit the sanctuary by the main doors, turn right and head down the stairs, turn right at the bottom of the stairs and enter the first door.

If you need anything during the service, please speak to one of the ushers.

## To Those Visiting with Children

The members of Gloria Dei believe that families should be able to worship together. It is clear that some amount of noise will come with children being in worship. Any noise children make in worship is the sound of families doing what God has told them to do: bringing their children to sit at Jesus' feet. Should your family need a few moments away from the sanctuary, the Fellowship Hall located directly beneath the sanctuary is open and equipped with a closed circuit TV of the service.

### **Serving Today**

Presiding Minister	Pastor Timothy Shrimpton
Accompanists	•
Ushers	Jasen Higgins and Steve Hansen

### **Copyright Information**

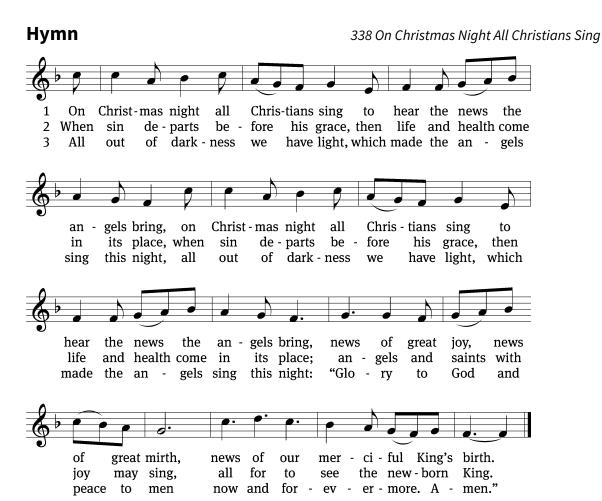
Scripture readings taken from the Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV), Copyright © 2019 by The Wartburg Project, www.wartburgproject.org. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Liturgical Scripture quotations from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from Christian Worship © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Service folder created in part by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2021 Concordia Publishing House. Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

# **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**



Text: English, abr. | Tune: English | Text and tune: Public domain

# **Bidding Prayer**

Dear people of God, in this Christmas season, it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us—the Christ Child lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy child.

But first, let us pray for people all over the world who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ and who would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of Northern California and for all those in our own congregation.

Silent Prayer

And, because this would please our Lord, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, and the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, those who do not love him, and those who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Silent Prayer

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another.

Silent Prayer

## **Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Be seated



Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent., alt

Text and tune: Public domain

First Lesson Genesis 3:8–15

Reader: Pastor Shrimpton

The Seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head.

hey heard the voice of the LORD God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

9The LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

<sup>10</sup>The man said, "I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself."

<sup>11</sup>God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?"

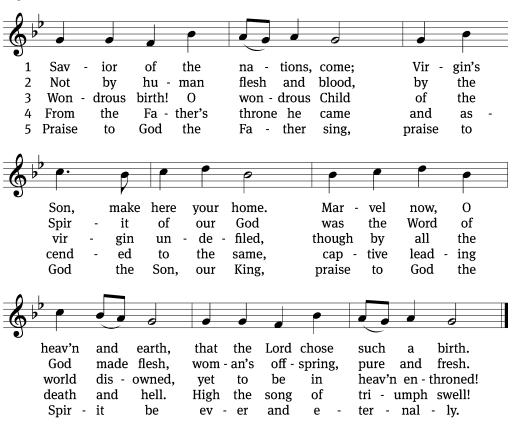
<sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

13The LORD God said to the woman, "What have you done?"

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent:

Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all the livestock, and more than every wild animal. You shall crawl on your belly, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel.



Text: tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–1876, alt.; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; Ambrose of Milan, 340–397, abr. | Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter | Text and tune: Public domain

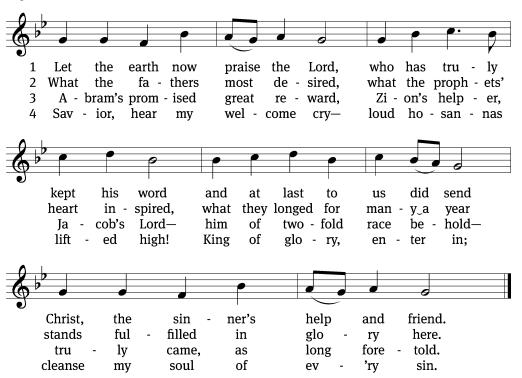
#### **Second Lesson**

Genesis 22:15–18

Reader: Steve Powers

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

he Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup> and said, "I have sworn by myself, declares the LORD, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will bless you greatly, and I will multiply your descendants greatly, like the stars of the sky and like the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the city gates of their enemies. <sup>18</sup>In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."



- 5 Crush 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,
- And, when you shall come again as a glorious king to reign,
   I with joy may see your face, freely ransomed by your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–1659, abr.; (sts. 1–3, 5–6): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 4): tr. Christian Worship, 2021 | Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter | Text (st. 4): © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 706345 | Text (sts. 1–3, 5–6) and tune: Public domain

#### **Third Lesson**

Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7 Reader: Paul Mueller

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

he people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
On those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned...
<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born.

To us a son is given.

The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.

His name will be called:

Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God,

Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>There will be no limit to his authority

and no end to his peace.

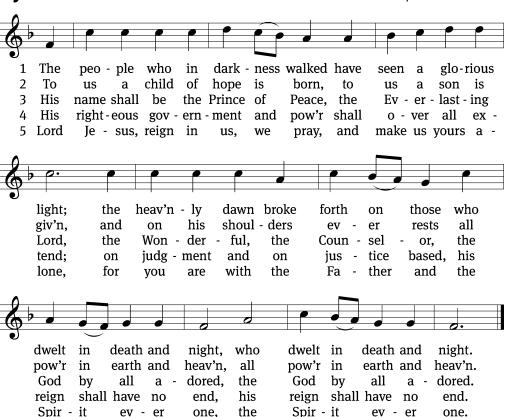
He will rule on David's throne

and over his kingdom to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from now on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.



381 The People Who in Darkness Walked



Text: John Morison, 1749-1798, abr., alt. | Tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561 | Text and tune: Public domain

The king will shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord.

ut you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come the one to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from ancient times, from eternity."

Therefore he will surrender them until the time she who is in labor gives birth to a child. Then the remainder of his brothers will return to the children of Israel.

He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth.

# Hymn

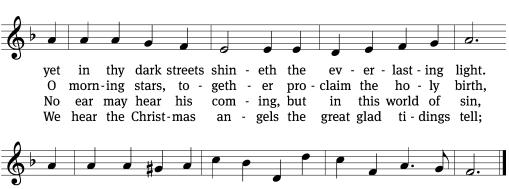
333 O Little Town of Bethlehem



- 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 while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love. God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless-ings of his heav'n. So cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - dav.



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!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893, abr., alt. Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908 Text and tune: Public domain

#### Fifth Lesson

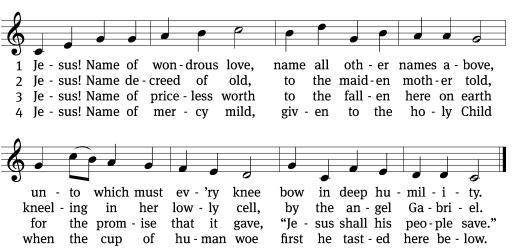
Matthew 1:18–25
Reader: Tim Mann

The angel comforts Joseph and assures him of the child's mission of salvation.

his is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother, Mary, was pledged in marriage to Joseph. Before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her. So he decided to divorce her privately. <sup>20</sup>But as he was considering these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup>All this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son. And they will name him Immanuel," which means, "God with us."

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up from his sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him. He took Mary home as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but he was not intimate with her until she gave birth to her firstborn son. And he named him Jesus.



- 5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n under all the mighty heav'n whereby those to sin enslaved burst their fetters and are saved.
- 6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love, human name of God above; pleading only this, we flee helpless, O our God, to thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt. | Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, Halle, 1704, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt. | Text and tune: Public domain

#### Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1–7

Reader: Rick Huntington

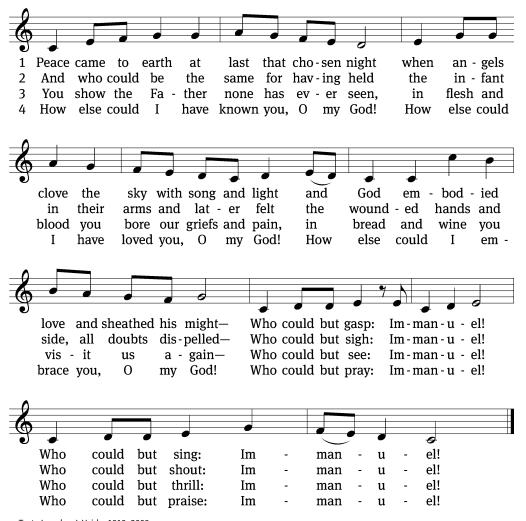
St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to register, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

<sup>6</sup>And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

**Choir Anthem** 330 Peace Came to Earth

The choir will sing stanzas 1-3. The congregation is invited to join on stanza 4.



Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919-2008

Tune: arr. Mark Kellner, 1959-2015, alt.; Richard Jeffrey, b. 1952

Text: © 1984 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 706345

Tune: © 2000 MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 706345

The shepherds go to the manger.

here were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind."

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Now let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

# Hymn

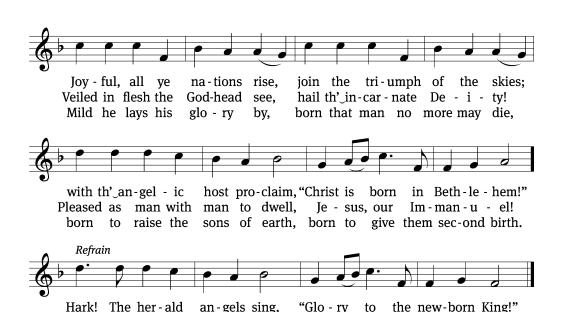
350 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



- 1 Hark! The her ald an gels sing, "Glo ry to the new-born King;
- 2 Christ, by high est heav'n a dored, Christ, the ev er last ing Lord,
- 3 Hail, the heav'n ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness!



peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of a vir-gin's womb. Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847 Text and tune: Public domain

# **Eighth Lesson**

Matthew 2:1–12

Reader: Ron Lucchesi

The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus.

fter Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, <sup>2</sup>"Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>He gathered together all the people's chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him."

<sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. <sup>11</sup>After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

**Hymn** The First Noel

The soloist will sing the stanzas. The congregation is invited to join on the refrains.

1 The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel!

2 They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

#### Refrain

3 And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest, and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.

5 Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. **Refrain** 

6 Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord, that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

Refrain

# Offering

The members of Gloria Dei give their offerings out of thanks to God for his unending love. These offerings are used to support our work locally and around the world. Our guests may give, but should not feel compelled to do so. If you wish to give a gift electronically, please visit <a href="www.gdluth.org/giving">www.gdluth.org/giving</a> or scan the code to the right.



If you are a guest with us today, please fill out the "Connection Card" in the racks at the end of each pew and leave the card with an usher, in the offering plate, or with the pastor.

Ninth Lesson

John 1:1–14

Reader: Pastor Shrimpton

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. <sup>13</sup>They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.



Text: tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, alt.; John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786 | Tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786, alt. | Text and tune: Public domain

# **Blessing**

May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with such joy that comes from the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the + Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

#### Amen.

## **Closing Hymn**



Text: tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885; Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848 | Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863 | Text and tune: Public domain

At the conclusion of worship, all are invited to the parsonage for an open house.

Our Christmas celebrations continue tomorrow morning with a different service beginning at 10:30am. All are invited to join us to continue to give thanks to God for his mercy and forgiveness!



#### (650) 593-3361 | www.gdluth.org 2600 Ralston Avenue, Belmont, CA 94002

Pastor Timothy Shrimpton pastor@gdluth.org

As a family of believers, Gloria Dei proclaims God's glory, the good news of sins forgiven in Jesus. We teach the entirety of God's truth as revealed in the Bible to strengthen the faith of our members, to train those who wish to know more about their Savior, and to proclaim Christ-crucified to all the world.

Gloria Dei is a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). www.wels.net

