

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord
Pastor Erik Sorenson



December 24, 2020

To listen via radio, please tune to AM 750.

Service of Lessons and Carols

** Please stand as you are able*

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in Christ: 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 even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which as 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 this community and for all those in our own congregation. 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, the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, or who do not love Him, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love. 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 the 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.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven in the words Christ Himself taught us:

Lord's Prayer

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.

** Please be seated.*

Lesson One

Genesis 3:8–19

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

368 Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav' n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Refrain
Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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Lesson Two

Isaiah 7:10–14

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Psalms 97:8–12

antiphon: vs. 1

The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad.

**Zion hears and is glad,
and the daughters of Judah rejoice,
because of your judgments, O LORD.**

For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods.

**O you who love the LORD, hate evil!
He preserves the lives of his saints;
he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.**

Light is sown for the righteous,
and joy for the upright in heart.

**Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!**

**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.**

The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice;
let the many coastlands be glad.

Lesson Three

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

370 What Child Is This



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!

Lesson Four

Isaiah 11:1-9

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98:1-6

antiphon: vs. 1

The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

**Oh 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.

**The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

**All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.**

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

**Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody!**

With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

**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.**

The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

** Please stand as you are able.*

Lesson Five

Luke 2:1-7

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

** Please be seated.*

361 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 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!

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** Please stand as you are able.*

Lesson Six

Luke 2:8-14

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

** Please be seated.*

Psalms 96:1-9

antiphon: vs. 7

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

**Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth!**

Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.

**Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!**

For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be feared above all gods.

**For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.**

Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

**Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!**

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts!

**Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth!**

**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.**

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

** Please stand as you are able.*

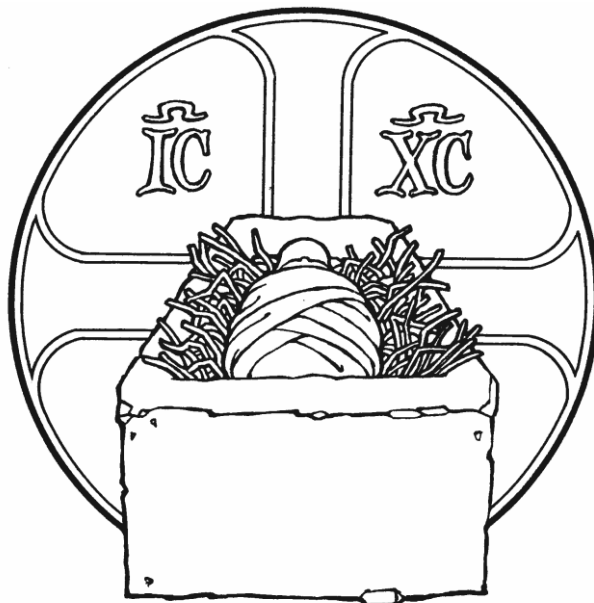
Lesson Seven

Luke 2:15–20

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

** Please be seated.*



358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

sts. 1-7



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
 4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
 God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
 low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
 Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
 bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.

- 5 "These are the signs that you shall mark:
 The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
 There you will find the infant laid
 By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."
- 6 How glad we'll be to find it so!
 Then with the shepherds let us go
 To see what God for us has done
 In sending us His own dear Son.
- 7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
 And see what in the manger lies.
 Who is this child, so young and fair?
 It is the Christ Child lying there.

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Sermon

The Shepherd Comes to His Flock

358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

sts. 8-15



8 Wel - come to earth, O no - ble Guest, Through whom the
 9 Ah, Lord, though You cre - at - ed all, How weak You
 10 Were earth a thou - sand times as fair And set with
 11 In - stead of soft and silk - en stuff You have but



sin - ful world is blest! You came to share my
 are, so poor and small, That You should choose to
 gold and jew - els rare, It would be far too
 hay and straw so rough On which as King, so



mis - er - y That You might share Your joy with me.
 lay Your head Where low - ly cat - tle late - ly fed!
 poor and small A cra - dle for the Lord of all.
 rich and great, To be en - throned in roy - al state.

12 And so it pleases You to see
 This simple truth revealed to me:
 That worldly honor, wealth, and might
 Are weak and worthless in Your sight.

13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
 Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
 A quiet chamber set apart
 For You to dwell within my heart.

14 My heart for very joy must leap;
 My lips no more can silence keep.
 I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
 That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

15 Glory to God in highest heav'n,
 Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
 While angels sing with pious mirth
 A glad new year to all the earth.

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** Please stand as you are able.*

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with your spirit.

P O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lighting of the Candles

(At this time, Pastor will light his candle directly from the Christ Candle. As it comes time to light your candle, please keep lit flames upright and lower unlit candles into the flame of the other candle. You may extinguish your candle at the conclusion of the final hymn.)

364 Away in a Manger

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.

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Benedicamus and Benediction

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

- P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** Amen.

363 Silent Night, Holy Night



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,
 all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
 Heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy
 peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

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** Please join us Christmas morning at 9:00 AM for Divine Service with communion.*

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