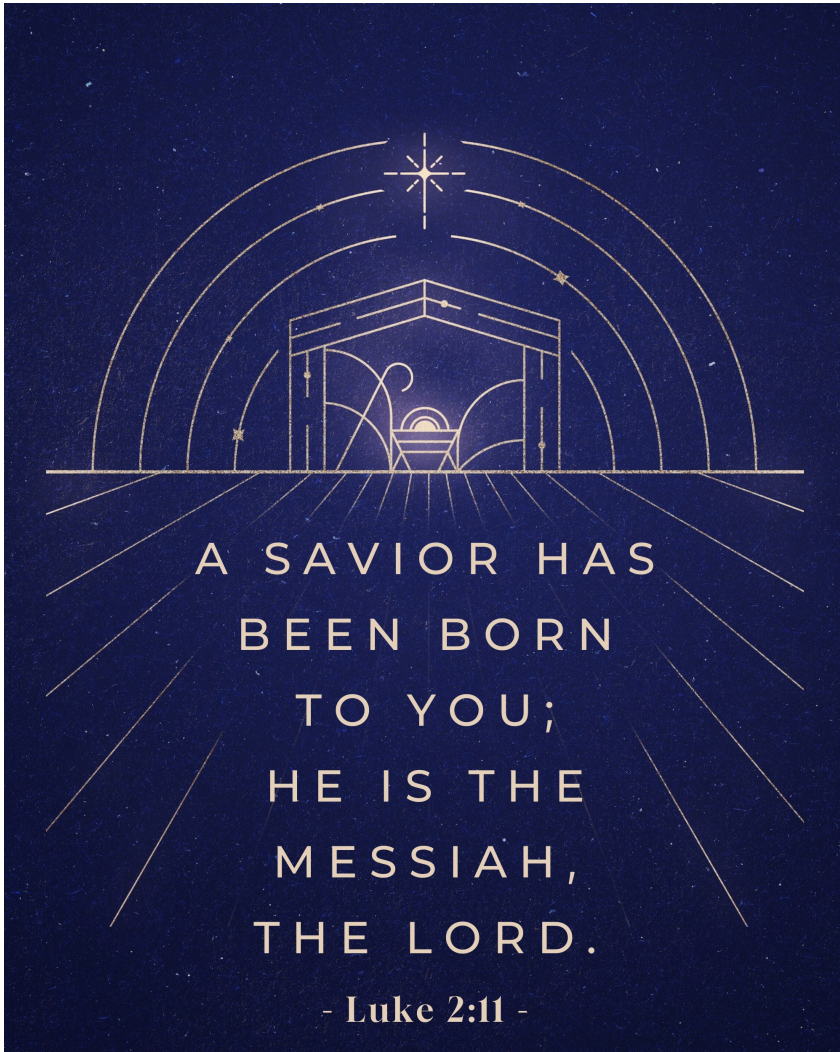




Ascension
Lutheran Church



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Ascension Lutheran Church

Tonight's Theme: Service of Lessons & Carols

Welcome

God's grace welcomes you, and so do we—the pastor and members of Ascension. Jesus Christ is the only Savior of all people. By his perfect life, innocent death, and triumphant resurrection Jesus won forgiveness for all. God teaches these truths in the Bible—God's complete plan for your salvation and his guidebook for your life. Ascension greets you with a warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

For Your Convenience

Restrooms are located near the entrance of the building. If your child becomes restless, that's okay! There is a speaker equipped children's area also near the entrance.

Worship at Ascension

The order of service is printed in this worship folder. Many of the elements in this service have ancient roots in the Christian church. Ascension values your participation in the service. Congregational responses are printed in **bold** and marked with a "C:". In this service, parts marked with an "S" will be read by the Sunday school students.

History of the Service of Lessons & Carols

Tonight's worship is an adaptation of "The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols" first introduced at King's College in Cambridge, England, on Christmas Eve of 1918. While the lessons are the backbone of the worship service, the carols stir our hearts and souls. Musicians have changed the carols and introduced new ones over the years. In our version of this well-loved worship service, the Word takes center stage. We contemplate the ancient Old Testament promises and their subsequent fulfillment in the Gospels. In their totality, they convey a stirring and exciting message, the same one the angels announced to the shepherds in Bethlehem: Today, in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Serving in Worship

Pastor John Boeder

Pianist: Bethel Boeder

Cantor: Hans Boeder

Readers: Nick Greuel, Jeff Greuel, Lucy Greuel, Eliza Newton, Hans Boeder

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Opening Carol

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful
CW #55 (Verses 1-3)



1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, Oh,
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion;



come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes,
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.



Come and be - hold him, Born the King of an - gels.
On - ly be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther.
Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est.

Refrain



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Stand

Exhortation

P: 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 Escondido 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, 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.

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.

To sum up all these petitions, let us pray as 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.

Be seated

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

¹¹ And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

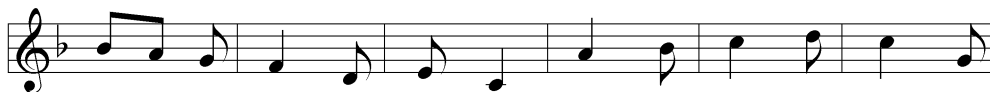
“Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Carol

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising CW #42



1 Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the
2 See how God, for us providing, Gave his
3 Christ, from heav'n to us descending And in
4 Ja - cob's Star in all its splen - dor Beams with
5 Gra - cious Child, we pray you, hear us; From your



Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing his love a -
Son and life a - bid - ing; He our wea - ry steps is
love our race be - friend - ing, In our need his help ex -
com - fort sweet and ten - der, Forc - ing Sa - tan to sur -
low - ly man - ger cheer us. Gent - ly lead us and be



maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.
guid - ing From earth's woe to heav'n - ly joy.
tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.
ren - der, Break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.
near us Till we join th' an - gel - ic choir.

Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

¹⁵The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem CW #65 (Verses 1-3)



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And,
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The



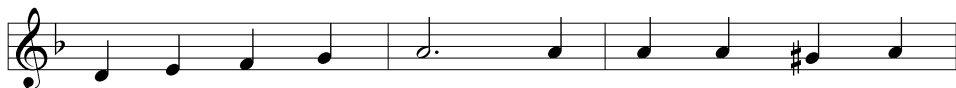
still we see thee lie! A - bove thy deep And
gath - ered all a - bove, While mor - tals sleep, The
won - drous gift is giv'n! So God im - parts To



dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by.
an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro -
No ear may hear his com - ing, But



ev - er - last - ing light. The hopes and fears Of
claim the ho - ly birth, And prais - es sing To
in this world of sin Where meek souls will Re -



all the years Are met in thee to - night.
God the King And peace to all the earth.
ceive him still, The dear Christ en - ters in.

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. ⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing CW #61



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -
3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of



new - born King; Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,
last - ing Lord, Late in time be - hold him come,
Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all you
Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
God-head see, Hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!
glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,



With th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus,
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to

Refrain



born in Beth - le - hem!"
our Im - man - u - el! Hark! The her - ald
give us sec - ond birth.



an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9

¹ A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD— ³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; ⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶ The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ⁷ The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. ⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Carol

Joy to the World
CW #62



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And



earth re - ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry
 all their songs em - ploy, While fields and
 thorns in - fest the ground; He comes to
 makes the na - tions prove The glo - ries



heart pre - pare him room And heav'n and
 floods, rocks, hills, and plains Re - peat the
 make his bless - ings flow Far as the
 of his right - eous - ness And won - ders



na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And
 sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
 curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far
 of his love, And won - ders of his love, And



heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 as, far as the curse is found.
 won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

- S: In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.
- C: This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.**
- S: And everyone went to their own town to register.
- C: So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.**
- S: While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,
- C: And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.**

Carol

Away in a Manger
CW #68



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 you 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 bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
And stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
And take us to heav - en to live with you there.

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

- S: And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.
- C: An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.**
- S: But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.
- C: Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.**
- S: This will be a sign to you:
- C: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”**
- S: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
- C: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”**
- S: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,
- C: “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”**
- S: So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.
- C: When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,**
- S: and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.
- C: But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.**
- S: The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High
CW #63



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



o'er the plains, And the moun - tains in re -
strains pro - long? What the glad - some ti - dings
an - gels sing; Come, a - dore on bend - ed



ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo - ri - a



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

Seventh Lesson

John 1:1-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 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 testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Carol

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt
CW #54



1 Where shep - herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,
2 In that un - like - ly place I find him as they said:
3 How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,
4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange-ly stirred;
Sweet new - born Babe, how frail! and in a man - ger bed,
His proph - e - cies ful - filled? With pound - ing heart I stare:
Its way in - to my heart un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



But there is room and wel - come there for me,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
To die, to live, and not a - lone for me,



But there is room and wel - come there for me.
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.
To die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

Sermonette

Offering & Connect

Guests, there is no obligation or expectation that you should give to support our ministry at Ascension. This is our members' way of expressing their thanks to God and supporting the work that we do to share the gospel.

We would really appreciate it if you let us know that you are here. Please fill out the yellow "Connect Card" you see on the back of the seat in front of you. Either put it in the offering plate or hand it to the pastor.



Candle Lighting

Prayer

Blessing

P: The Almighty and merciful God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Glory to God in the highest! Amen!**

Closing Carol

Silent Night! Holy Night CW #60



1 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is
2 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds
3 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of



calm, all is bright, Round yon vir - gin
quake at the sight. Glo - ries stream from
God, love's pure light Ra - diant beams from



moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so
heav - en a - far; Heav'n - ly hosts sing,
thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re -



ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
Al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sav - ior, is
deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy born!



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Ascension is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.



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