



Welcome to Moe Lutheran

Service of Lesson and Carols
December 26, 2021

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESENTATION OF MOE SCHOLARSHIPS

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Emmanuel has come.

God is with us!

We have heard the promise of the prophets.

We have rejoiced with the angels!

We have seen a star in the heavens...

And we have come to worship!

We have come to be with you...

Because you have come to be with us!

*GATHERING SONG: *"The Bells of Christmas"*

ELW 298

- 1 The bells of Christmas chime once more;
the heav'nly guest is at the door.
He comes to earthly dwellings still
with new year gifts of peace, good will.

- 3 Now let us go with quiet mind,
the swaddled babe with shepherds find,
to gaze on him who gladdens them,
the loveliest flow'r of Jesse's stem.

- 5 O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song,
O Dayspring bright, awaited long,
O Son of Man, incarnate Word,
great David's Son, great David's Lord:

- 6 Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest,
and keep your Christmas in our breast;
then David's harpstrings, hushed so long,
shall swell our jubilee of song.

“God’s Greatest Gift”



The Gift Promised

FIRST LESSON:

“Sin and its Curse” - Genesis 3:8-15

⁸ That evening they heard the LORD God walking in the garden, and they hid from him among the trees. ⁹ But the LORD God called out to the man, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ He answered, “I heard you in the garden; I was afraid and hid from you, because I was naked. ¹¹ “Who told you that you were naked?” God asked. “Did you eat the fruit that I told you not to eat?” ¹² The man answered, “The woman you put here with me gave me the fruit, and I ate it.” ¹³ The LORD God asked the woman, “Why did you do this?” She replied, “The snake tricked me into eating it.” ¹⁴ Then the LORD God said to the snake, “You will be punished for this; you alone of all the animals must bear this curse: From now on you will crawl on your belly, and you will have to eat dust as long as you live. ¹⁵ I will make you and the woman hate each other; her offspring and yours will always be enemies. Her offspring will crush your head, and you will bite her offspring’s heel.”



“Joy to the World” - ELW 267

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

SECOND LESSON:

“God’s Promise to Abraham” - Genesis 12:1-3

¹The LORD said to Abram, “Leave your country, your relatives, and your father’s home, and go to a land that I am going to show you. ²I will give you many descendants, and they will become a great nation. I will bless you and make your name famous, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse those who curse you. And through you I will bless all the nations.”

 *“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” - ELW 272*

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

2 Isaiah had foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.

4 O Savior, child of Mary,
who felt our human woe;
O Savior, king of glory,
who dost our weakness know:
bring us at length, we pray,
to the bright courts of heaven
and into endless day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3;
John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4

THIRD LESSON:

“Prophesies of the Messiah” - Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.
They lived in a land of shadows,
but now light is shining on them.

⁶ A child is born to us!
A son is given to us!
And he will be our ruler.
He will be called, “Wonderful^[L] Counselor,”
“Mighty God,” “Eternal Father,”
“Prince of Peace.”

⁷ His royal power will continue to grow;
his kingdom will always be at peace.
He will rule as King David's successor,
basing his power on right and justice,
from now until the end of time.
The LORD Almighty is determined to do all this.



“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” - ELW 282

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876



The Gift Given

FOURTH LESSON:

“The Promise Dawns” - Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸This was how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they were married, she found out that she was going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Joseph was a man who always did what was right, but he did not want to disgrace Mary publicly; so he made plans to break the engagement privately. ²⁰While he was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife. For it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived. ²¹She will have a son, and you will name him Jesus—because he will save his people from their sins.”

²²Now all this happened in order to make come true what the Lord had said through the prophet, ²³“A virgin will become pregnant and have a son, and he will be called Immanuel” (which means, “God is with us”).

²⁴So when Joseph woke up, he married Mary, as the angel of the Lord had told him to. ²⁵But he had no relations with her before she gave birth to her son. And Joseph named him Jesus.



“What Child is This?” - ELW 296

- 1 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!

- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, 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!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898

FIFTH LESSON:

“The Word Lives Among Us” – John 1:1-14

¹ In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² From the very beginning the Word was with God. ³ Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. ⁴ The Word was the source of life, and this life brought light to people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.

⁶ God sent his messenger, a man named John, ⁷ who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the light. ⁹ This was the real light—the light that comes into the world and shines on all people.

¹⁰ The Word was in the world, and though God made the world through him, yet the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to his own country, but his own people did not receive him. ¹² Some, however, did receive him and believed in him; so he gave them the right to become God's children. ¹³ They did not become God's children by natural means, that is, by being born as the children of a human father; God himself was their Father.

¹⁴ The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son.



“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” - ELW 270

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*



The Gift Received

SIXTH LESSON:

“Sin’s Curse is Broken” – John 3:16-17

¹⁶For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its Savior.



“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” - ELW 288

- 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

- 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866

STORYTIME with Janet



Responding to God's Gift

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth,**

(Continued on the next page)

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

CALL TO OFFERING: Jesus was not born in a real home. He was born into poverty. He was born into simplicity. He was born into a manger in Bethlehem. And despite the little he might have had; Jesus still spent the rest of his days on earth giving to others. Generosity is in the DNA of our faith. We give what we can, not because we should or because scripture says to. We give because we're family. We give because we belong to one another. We give because all are invited into God's house. Now let us offer our gifts as we sing:

OFFERTORY: "Your Little Ones, Dear Lord *ELW 286*

- 1 Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,
and come your lowly bed to see;
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,
that we the way to you may find.
- 2 With songs we hasten you to greet,
and kiss the ground before your feet.
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night
that gave you birth, our soul's delight.
- 3 Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,
and to us all your grace accord;
true faith and love to us impart,
that we may hold you in our heart.

PRAYERS:

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

You come to us in gatherings of your church across the globe. Unite us with those who celebrate your birth even when they are weighed down by grief, loss, poverty, hunger, or injustice.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You come to us in the diverse splendor of the universe. Grant us the humility to live in service to you and the world you Created.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You come to us through relationships of many kinds: families, friendships, communities, and nations. Guide us in these relationships, that we recognize the Christ child in one another and show your love to those most vulnerable.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You come to us through people whom the world forgets. Poor shepherds and an imprisoned Paul announced your good news. Send your Spirit to all who are imprisoned, struggling with addiction, unwell, or in any need this day *especially those we name in our hearts before you....*

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You come to us in acts of justice and forgiveness. Open our hearts to forgive one another. Supply us with the wisdom to be clothed with love, binding all things together in perfect harmony.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER:**

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.

***BENEDICTION**

The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
the LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace.

***THREE-FOLD AMEN**

***SENDING SONG: "Go Tell it on the Mountain"**

ELW 290

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

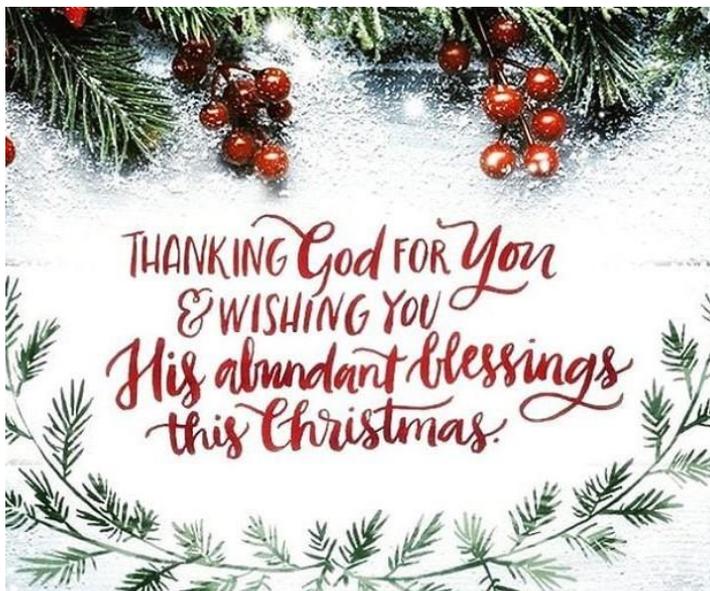
- 1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*
- 3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

***DISMISSAL**

L: Go in peace. Celebrate Jesus!
C: **Thanks be to God!**

*Thank you Janet Johnson for leading
this morning's worship service!*



**Join us for worship on
Sunday, January 2nd, 10 AM. hosted by Messiah**

A “Christmas Tapas” with guest organist, Selmer Moen.

“Tapas” is a style of serving a variety of foods on small plates so one can enjoy many different flavors while sharing with others! On the ninth day of Christmas, come share and enjoy a fresh taste of the season!

