

# Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025

4:30PM

# Pilgrim Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS)

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W156 N5436 Bette Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI | 262-781-3520 | [office@pilgrimcares.org](mailto:office@pilgrimcares.org)

## Heavenly Hosts Sing Alleluia

Families cherish their Christmas traditions. Year after year, they decorate the tree with the same ornaments, play the same music, bake the same Christmas cookies. Without asking, family members know when they will open presents. If you try to change your family's Christmas traditions, you might be in trouble! When it comes to family Christmases, people generally don't like things to change.

Because our celebration of Christmas has so many unchanging traditions, we might miss the fact that the birth of Christ the Savior meant radical change for the world. Would the change be an improvement or another step in decline? The angels answer the question. They don't sing "Watch out for impending doom!" They sing "glory" and "peace," praising God with alleluias!

**Restrooms** are located to your left as you exit the worship area. There are **changing tables in both restrooms**.

**LARGE PRINT** copies of worship materials are available from the ushers. If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to ask an usher.

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

**Presiding Minister**

Pastor Collin Vanderhoof

**Organist**

Joel Schwartz

**Musicians**

Rachel & Andy Braun, Dave Burleton, Cohen Burleton

Lucas Faust, Alyssa Schwartz, Mikaela Sullivan

**Lectors**

Jon Balza, Caleb Chmielewski, Lucas Faust,

Matt Lawonn, Greg Lyon, Rees Roecker

# Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols

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## Prelude

Played by Dominic Faust

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

Jason Tonioli

Stand

## Once in Royal David's City

CW 343

The Cantor will sing stanza one, the quartet will sing stanza two, the congregation joins on stanza three and four.



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and  
3 And our eyes at last shall see him through his own re -  
4 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble with the ox - en



cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a  
Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his  
deem - ing love, for that child, so dear and gen - tle, is our  
stand - ing by shall we see him, but in heav - en, set at



man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er  
cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and mean and  
Lord in heav'n a - bove, and he leads his chil - dren  
God's right hand on high. Then like stars his chil - dren



mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
on to the place where he is gone.  
crowned, all in white, his praise will sound.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-1895, abr., alt. Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876 Text and tune: Public domain Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-1895, abr., alt. Text: 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 Menomonee Falls 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.

## 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*

## Offering

Offering boxes are available in the back of church. If you wish to give an electronic offering, you may use the QR code located at the end of the bulletin or you may go to [pilgrimcares.org/giving](http://pilgrimcares.org/giving). We present the offerings before the altar as a reminder that our giving overflows out of the Gospel and is itself an act of worship.

## Anthem

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

## First Lesson

*Genesis 3:8–15*

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

<sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." <sup>11</sup>And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>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."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Joy Has Dawned

CW 352

The Cantor will sing stanza one.



1 Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom - ised from cre - a - tion—  
2 Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of an - gels  
3 Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, gaz - ing at the glo - ry.  
4 Son of Ad - am, Son of heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som;



God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.  
as the might - y Prince of life shel - ters in a sta - ble.  
Gifts of men from dis - tant lands proph - e - sy the sto - ry:  
rec - on - cil - ing God and man, Christ, our might - y cham - pion!



Not with fan - fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,  
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in dark - ness,  
gold— a king is born to - day; in - cense—God is with us;  
What a Sav - ior! What a friend! What a glo - rious mys - t'ry!



but a hum - ble gift of love— Je - sus born of Mar - y.  
cling now to a moth - er's breast, \_ vul - n'ra - ble and help - less.  
myrrh— his death will make a way, and by his blood he'll win us.  
Once a babe in Beth - le - hem, \_ now the Lord of his - t'ry.

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963 Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963 Text and tune: © 2005 Thankyou Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 712872

## Second Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.*

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.

<sup>6</sup>For 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.

<sup>7</sup>Of 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Angels We Have Heard on High

CW 346



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 ti - dings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - - -



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

Text: French; tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, 1862, alt. Tune: French Text and tune: Setting by Erik Foster and Dan Galbraith. Public domain

## Sermon

## Third Lesson

Micah 5:2-4

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

<sup>2</sup>“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.”

<sup>3</sup>Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.

<sup>4</sup>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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Go, Tell It on the Mountain

CW 361



Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills, and ev - 'ry - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born,



be-hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work II, 1873–1925, verses, alt. Setting by Jim Hammerly Tune: African American spiritual Text and tune: Public domain

## Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:1–7

*St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

<sup>1</sup>In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# O Little Town of Bethlehem

CW 333



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 ti - dings 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!

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

## Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:8–20

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

<sup>8</sup>And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks 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. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

<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 spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The Word of the Lord.

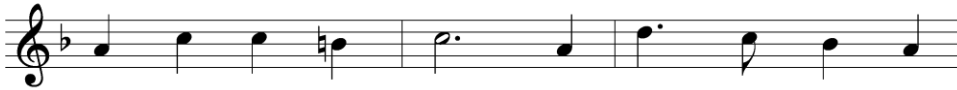
**Thanks be to God.**

# While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night

CW 336



1 While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all  
2 "Fear not," said he for might - y dread had  
3 "To you, in Da - vid's town, this day is  
4 "The heav'n - ly babe you there shall find to



seat - ed on the ground, an an - gel of the  
seized their trou - bled mind; "glad ti - dings of great  
born of Da - vid's line a Sav - ior, who is  
hu - man view dis - played, all hum - bly wrapped in



Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.  
joy I bring to you and all man - kind.  
Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:  
swad - dling clothes and in a man - ger laid."

- 5 Then suddenly in heav'n's bright sky  
appeared a shining throng  
of angels praising God, who thus  
addressed their joyful song:
- 6 "All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace;  
to those on whom his favor rests  
goodwill shall never cease."

Text: Nahum Tate, 1652-1715, alt. Setting by Joel Schwartz Text: Public domain

## Sixth Lesson

John 1:1–14

*St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.*

<sup>1</sup>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 all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light shines 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 a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

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

<sup>14</sup>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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# O Come, All Ye Faithful

CW 354



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O 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!  
Je - sus, to thee\_ be all glo - ry giv'n!



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:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



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



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, alt. Tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711–1786, Setting by Branches Band alt.

Stand

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

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.**

# Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

CW 350



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.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Setting by David Willcocks  
Text: Public domain

*Be seated*

## News & Notes

**Divine Calls were Extended** On Sunday, December 14, the members of Pilgrim Lutheran Church extended divine calls to the following individuals: David Porth – to serve as our Staff Minister and Maddie Maksim – to serve as our full-time 3K Teacher. We ask that you please keep David and Maddie in your prayers as they deliberate these calls to service in God’s kingdom. May the Holy Spirit grant them clarity and peace as they discern where they can best serve the Lord and His people.

**Sunday Bible Class** is on break until January 11. See you then!

**Worship note!** We have two services on Christmas Eve. 4:30pm and 6:30pm. The lessons will be the same but each will have different music to enrich your holiday.

**Evensong: A Discipleship Event** Join us on the Third Thursday of January, January 15, in the church for a night of study and fellowship. Our evening will begin with a look at the rich theology and history of a few hymns. We will look at each appointed hymn, their origins, and their messages. Following our study we will break for fellowship and conversation during which charcuterie and wine will be served. We will end the evening with an evening prayer service in which those same hymns will be featured. Evensong begins at 6pm and wraps up around 8pm. We hope to see you there!

**After School Care Position** Pilgrim Lutheran Preschool and Childcare is hiring for an After-School Care Teacher to work with our school-aged group. This role is approximately 6-10 hours per week, 2-3 days a week. Hours may be flexible, but would be from 2:15 pm to 5:00 pm most days. The position may require some training based on current educational status. CPR/First Aid is required. We are looking for this person to start the week of January 19th, with some training hours before that start date. For more details, please contact: Amanda Berg, ECM Director [aberg@pilgrimcares.org](mailto:aberg@pilgrimcares.org) 262-781-8305

*Thank you to all the families that provided poinsettias!*

Gennerman, Hermanson, Kehoe, Kirchner,  
Konig, Loomis, Pankow, Renner, Schmick, Winkelman



Pilgrim Lutheran Church can receive offerings electronically through a secure website. Scan the QR code with your smart phone (you might need to download a free QR scanning app) to be directed to Pilgrim's giving page or visit [pilgrimcares.org/giving](http://pilgrimcares.org/giving). Save the check – give online!

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