

A Festival of Lessons and Carols



A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Prelude: - Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme - J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Opening Anthem-Invitation to the Manger by Philip Ledger

See, the lovely babe asleep.
Lying on his mother's breast,
Ah! How tenderly,
Ah! How tenderly,
tenderly caressed!

Let us kneel, and vigil keep.
At this quiet cradle side,
Mary! may we here abide?
At this quiet cradle side,
May we here with Jesus abide?
(repeat)

See, the lovely babe asleep.
Lying on his mother's breast,
Ah! How tenderly,
Ah! How tenderly,
tenderly caressed!

Let us kneel, and vigil keep.
At this quiet cradle side,
Mary! may we here abide?
At this quiet cradle side,
May we here with Jesus abide?

The Bidding Prayer – The Rev. Sid Breese

Dear People of God; In this season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city. And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

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. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

Amen.

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Invitatory: Break forth, O Beauteous Morning Light - translation

Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light,
and usher in the morning;
O shepherds, shrink not with affright,
but hear the angel's warning.
This Child, now weak in infancy,
our confidence and joy shall be;
the pow'r of Satan breaking,
our peace eternal making.

Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light,
to herald our salvation;
He stoops to earth—the God of might,
our hope and expectation.
He comes in human flesh to dwell,
our God with us, Immanuel;
the night of darkness ending,
our fallen race befriending.

The First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15

Read by Sr. Toni Sylvester, OSB

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

The Word of the Lord.

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Carol: God to Adam Came in Eden

God to Adam came in Eden,
Heaven flowered at his feet;
All creation sang together,
New-born man on earth to greet.

Stars beaming bright,
Still of the night,
Cry of an angel,
Splendour of light
Shining on Bethlehem:
God is in Bethlehem!

Eve to Adam came in Eden,
Nature blossomed at their side;
Bound in love and blessed in union,
Perfect man and purest bride.

Stars beaming bright,
Still of the night,
Cry of an angel,
Splendor of light
Shining on Bethlehem:
God is in Bethlehem!

In to Adam came in Eden,
Heaven sorrowed in its heart;
Tears of grief its garden drowning,
Thorns of death in every part.

Stars beaming bright,
Still of the night,
Cry of an angel,
Splendor of light
Shining on Bethlehem:
God is in Bethlehem!

God to us has come, a saviour,
Grace to sinners on the earth;
Shepherds greet the infant Jesus,
God and man in virgin birth.

Stars beaming bright,
Still of the night,
Cry of an angel,
Splendor of light
Shining on Bethlehem:
God is in Bethlehem!

The Second Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Br. Robert Cotton, OSB

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

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

The Word of the Lord

Anthem: "The people that walked in Darkness"

G.F. Handel

The people that walked in Darkness,
have seen a great light;
and that they dwell in the land
of the shadow of death,
upon them the light shined

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The Third Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Sr. Anna Grace, OSB

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord

Carol: Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

1 Comfort, comfort ye my people,
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
comfort those who sit in darkness,
mourning 'neath their sorrow's load.
Speak ye to Jerusalem
of the peace that waits for them;
tell her that her sins I cover,
and her warfare now is over.

3. Make ye straight what long was crooked,
make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits his holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now o'er earth is shed abroad;
and all flesh shall see the token
that his word is never broken.

2 Hark, the voice of one who's crying
in the desert far and near,
bidding all to full repentance,
since the kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way!
Valleys, rise in exaltation;
hills, bow down in adoration.

The Forth Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-9

Sr. Mary Francis, OSB

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

The Word of the Lord

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Anthem: “And the Glory of the Lord will be Revealed ”

G. F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together:
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

The Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-38 Sr. Brigid Gerns, Obl./OSB

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.”¹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”¹ The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born¹ will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God. Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord

Anthem: “Es ist ein Ros entsprungen” - Translation

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. O, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming,
As men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'et bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night. | The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She bore to men a Savior,
When half spent was the night. |
| 2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, | 3. This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor
The darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
From sin and death He saves us,
And lightens every load |

The Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1, 3-7 Sr. Margaret Moore, Obl./OSB

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Word of the Lord

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Carol: Hush my Dear, lie still and slumber

Isaac Watts

Hush! my dear, lie still and slumber,
Holy angels guard thy bed!
Heavenly blessings without number
Gently falling on thy head.

Sleep, my babe; thy food and raiment,
House and home, thy friends provide;
All without thy care or payment:
All thy wants are well supplied.

How much better thou'rt attended
Than the Son of God could be,
When from heaven He descended
And became a child like thee!

Soft and easy is thy cradle:
Coarse and hard thy Savior lay,
When His birthplace was a stable
And His softest bed was hay.

See the kinder shepherds round Him,
Telling wonders from the sky!

Where they sought Him, there they found Him,
With His Virgin mother by.

See the lovely babe a-dressing;
Lovely infant, how He smiled!
When He wept, the mother's blessing
Soothed and hush'd the holy child.

Lo, He slumbers in His manger,
Where the horned oxen fed:
Peace, my darling; here 's no danger,
Here's no ox anear thy head.

'Twas to save thee, child, from dying,
Save my dear from burning flame,
Bitter groans and endless crying,
That thy blest Redeemer came.

May'st thou live to know and fear Him,
Trust and love Him all thy days;
Then go dwell for ever near Him,
See His face, and sing His praise!

The Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-16 ·Br. Gregory Tatchell, OSB

The shepherds go to the manger.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,^[1] praising God and saying,

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

The Word of the Lord

Carol: While Shepard’s watched their flocks by night

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
an angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

2 "Fear not," said he for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind
"glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

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3 "To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

4 "The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all simply wrapped in swaddling clothes
and in a manger laid."

5 Thus spoke the angel. Suddenly
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."

The Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11

Br. Peter Francis, n/OSB

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men¹ from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah² was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men³ and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,⁴ until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The Word of the Lord

Hymn: Joy to the World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows 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.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

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The Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14

Sr. Martha Lamoy, OSB

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. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave the power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

The Word of the Lord

Hymn: Angels from the Realms of Glory

1 Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

2 Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light: *[Repeat verse 1 & refrain]*

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: *[repeat verse 1 & Refrain]*

The Collect and Blessing

Abbot David:

V. The Lord be with you.

R: And with your spirit.

V. Let us pray.

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

All: Amen.

The Rev. Sid Breese: Dismissal Blessing

May He who by his incarnation gathered into one
things earthly and heavenly,
bestow upon you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

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Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King"

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
 Christ, the everlasting Lord,
 late in time behold him come,
 offspring of the Virgin's womb:

veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
 hail th'incarnate Deity,
 pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
 Jesus, our Immanuel. [Refrain]

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
 Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
 Light and life to all he brings,
 risen with healing in his wings.
 Mild he lays his glory by,
 born that we no more may die,
 born to raise us from the earth,
 born to give us second birth.
 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace
 Hail the Sun of Righteousness.

Postlude: Joy of Man's Desiring

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

SOURCES AND CREDITS

Music by Members

PARTICIPANT or SOURCE

NOTES

Prelude	Br. Dunstan, Townsend, OSB
Soloist	Sr. Cecilia Horton, n/OSB
Postlude	Sr. Katherine Fleck, OSB

Recorded Music

Segments from the Messiah	Boston Baroque, Martin Pearlman Director	
Segments from "While Shepherds Watched"	The Parley of instruments - -Peter Holeman director	Christmas Hymns and Carols from Anglican country churches; 1750-1830
Segments from "Nativity"	The Parley of instruments - -Peter Holeman director	Christmas Hymns and Carols from Anglican country churches; 1720-1810
Christmas from Bethlehem, – Vol.3	Traditional carols by Bach Choir of Bethlehem	
Christmas from Bethlehem, – Vol.4	Traditional carols by Bach Choir of Bethlehem	
Carols from Christ Church	Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford	

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Credit and Appreciation

I want to thank each of the CSL members who volunteered to read a portion of the Bible for this service. I also want to thank Sisters Cecilia, Sr. Katherine and Br. Dunstan for offering their musical skill and talent. Their contribution enhanced and expanded member participation and added additional community support for the service. Finally, I need to especially thank Br. Joseph Florian for his assistance with the technical aspects needed produce this Festival Service. Without his skill and patience as we dealt with an increasingly complex service, this program could not have been produced.

Thank You All

Abbot David, OSB