



SAINT MARTIN LUTHERAN CHURCH
Lessons and Carols for the
First Sunday in Christmas
DECEMBER 28, 2025

PRELUDE:

Stand

OPENING DIALOGUE AND CONFESION

P The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.
C **We have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son of the Father.**

P To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
C **In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

P He was named Jesus, for he saves his people from their sins. Gathered in the name of Christ Jesus, let us confess our sin to God and our neighbor.
C **Gracious God, in Christ Jesus you come among us as light shining in darkness. We confess our failure to welcome and follow his light. Forgive us and renew our sense of hope, peace, joy, and love, to live more fully in the light of your grace, and welcome the truth of Christ the Lord.**

P I bring you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord; in him our sins are forgiven.
C **Amen**

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 283 (ALL 4 VERSES) O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

1 O come, all ye faithful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of 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 - i - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . the high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,
 ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Almighty God, your angels led lowly shepherds to the miracle good news of great joy, the true Light, our Lord Emmanuel. Grant that we your servants may walk in the light of your Son and on the last day wake to the brightness of his glory, through the same Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

C Amen

Sit

FIRST READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah:

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news,
who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
who publishes salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.”
⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice;
together they sing for joy;

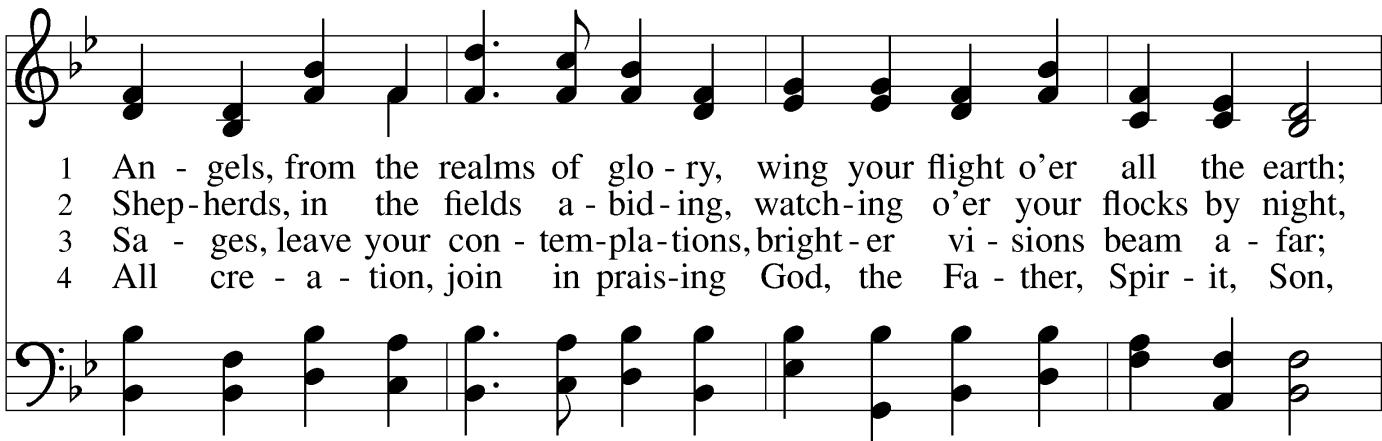
ISAIAH 52:7-10

for eye to eye they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
⁹ Break forth together into singing,
you waste places of Jerusalem,
for the Lord has comforted his people;
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
¹⁰ The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

CAROL

ELW 275, VSS. 1-2

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY



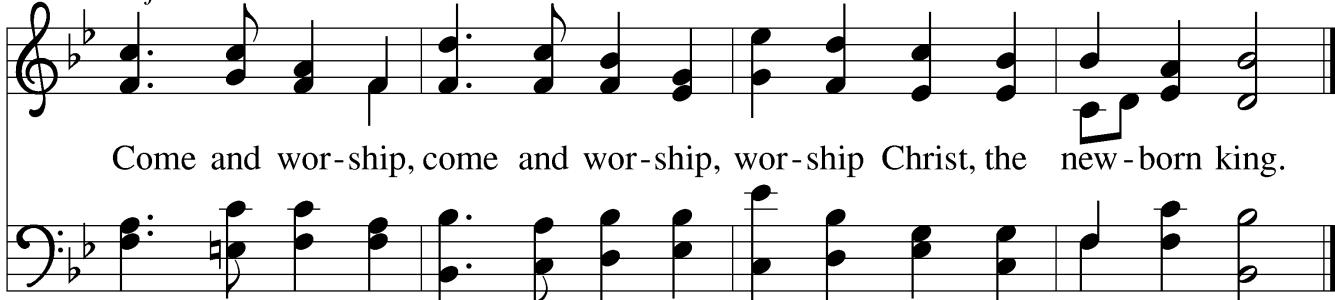
1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch-ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais-ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.



Refrain



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ, the new-born king.

SECOND READING

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah:

¹⁰ Go through, go through the gates;
 prepare the way for the people;
 build up, build up the highway;
 clear it of stones;
 lift up a signal over the peoples.

¹¹ Behold, the Lord has proclaimed
 to the end of the earth:
 Say to the daughter of Zion,

ISAIAH 62:10-12

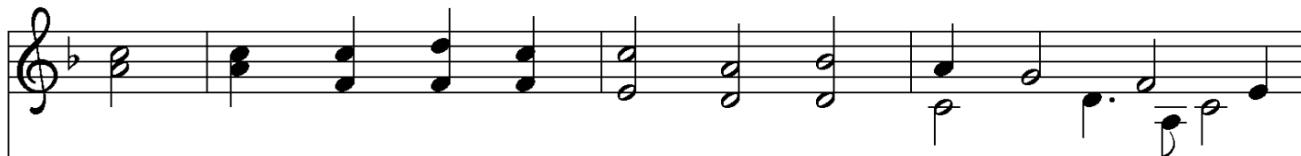
“Behold, your salvation comes;
 behold, his reward is with him,
 and his recompense before him.”

¹² And they shall be called The Holy
 People,
 The Redeemed of the Lord;
 and you shall be called Sought Out,
 A City Not Forsaken.

CAROL

ELW 272, vss. 1-2

LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she
 dark - ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

THIRD READING

LUKE 1:26-33

A reading from the Gospel of Luke:

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at

the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.³² 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 father David,³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

CAROL THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME

ELW 265, VSS. 1-2

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born

with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Glo - - - ri - a!

THE FOURTH READING

LUKE 2:1-7

A reading from the Gospel of Luke:

² In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria.³

And all went to be registered, each to his own town.⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

CAROL

ELW 269, VSS. 1-2

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

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

where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
 and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
 for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
 we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

Mar - y was that moth-er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 with the poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
 there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

FIFTH READING

LUKE 2:8-14

A reading from the Gospel of Luke:

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

CAROL

ELW 289 (ALL 3 VERSES)

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

ri - a

Glo - -

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

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

Stand

SIXTH READING

A reading from the Gospel of Luke:

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

LUKE 2:15-20

CAROL

ELW 290 (ALL 3 VERSES)

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Refrain



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 lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



Refrain



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.



PEACE

P Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given and he will be called the Prince of Peace. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Sit

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Stand

OFFERTORY

ELW 295, VSS. 1, 5

OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly

gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
prais - es sing; pow'r, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing

he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
deem er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
pect ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
si lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
min ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry

ev - er - more and ev - er - more,
ev - er - more and ev - er - more,
ev - er - more and ev - er - more,
ev - er - more and ev - er - more,
ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

A - men.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. Loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace to all people. Receive now these gifts that we bring, and may the works of our hands proclaim the news of your redeeming love in Jesus Christ throughout the world.

C Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

EUCARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, in the beginning your Word brought light into the whole world. In the fullness of time you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: “Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people, for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await with joy his coming again.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Sit

DISTRIBUTION

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM ELW #279



IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR ELW#282

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
 3 And you, be -neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 4 For lo! The days are has -t'ning on, by proph -ets seen of old,

from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
 who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov -'ring wing,
 look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,

The world in sol - emn still-ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

C Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray. Gracious God, in the incarnation of your Son, Emmanuel, you have united heaven and earth. May we who have tasted heavenly things share the gift of your presence with all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

BENEDICTION

P I bring you good news of great joy for all people! For a child has been born for us, a son given to us, and he is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Emmanuel. So may God With Us; the Father, Son **+**, and Holy Spirit bless, preserve, and keep you this holy day and forever.

C Amen

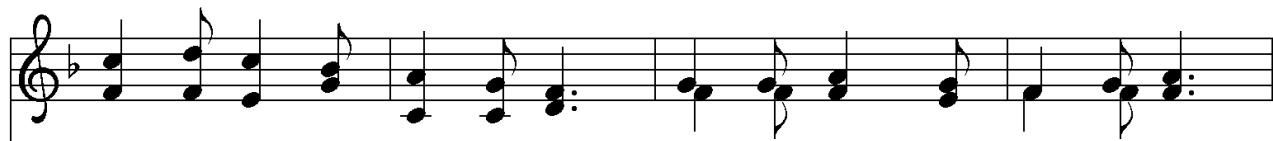
ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING CAROL

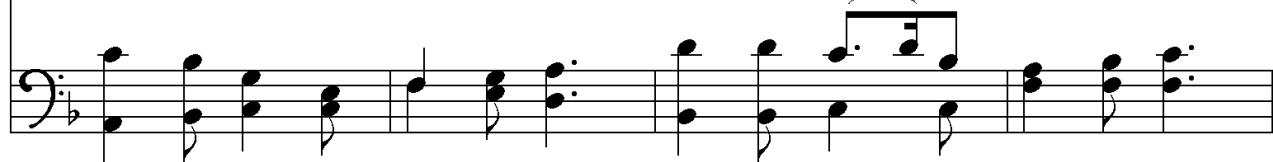
ELW #288 (ALL 3 VERSES)

GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save!

Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save!

Dismissal

A Jesus the Savior is born! Go in peace to share the Good News!
C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE