

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation

1600 South Main Street, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Pre-Service Music

Processional Hymn

Once in Royal David's City



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.

Please stand.

Beloved in Christ, this Christmas Eve it is our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels: in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the shepherds and the wise men adore the Child lying in his mother’s arms.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and in company with the whole Church let us make this sanctuary glad with our carols of praise.

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace over all the earth, and for goodwill over the citizens and states of our Republic of these United States. And let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the loving kindness of the Lord.

Let us also remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which none can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh: and let us pray that we may be counted among that communion of saints, receiving grace to offer unto God reasonable service, living in unity with all his people and giving reverence to all that he has made.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

**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.**

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

In the name of Jesus, our crucified and resurrected Savior. Amen.

Please be seated.

The First Lesson
Genesis 3:8–19

*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 voice of the Lord God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

The Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” The man said, “I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself.” God said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” The Lord God said to the woman, “What have you done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

The Lord God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all the livestock, and more than every wild animal. You shall crawl on your belly, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel.

To the woman he said: I will greatly increase your pain in childbearing. With painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, but he will rule over you.

To Adam he said: Because you listened to your wife’s voice and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, “You shall not eat from it,” the soil is cursed on account of you. You will eat from it with painful labor all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles will spring up from the ground for you, but you will eat the crops of the field. By the sweat of your face you will eat bread until you return to the soil, for out of it you were taken. For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*After each lesson, the reader says, “The Word of the Lord,”
and the congregation responds, “Thanks be to God!”*

EARLY SERVICE
Sunday School Choir sings stanzas 1-2
and the Congregation sings stanzas 3-4

LATE SERVICE
The Congregation sings all stanzas

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -

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

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

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748. Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Second Lesson
Genesis 22:15–18

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

The Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, “I have sworn by myself, declares the Lord, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will bless you greatly, and I will multiply your descendants greatly, like the stars of the sky and like the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the city gates of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”



Angels from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing
5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the

flight o'er all the earth; once you sang cre -
long in hope and fear, sud - den - ly the
Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your

a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear.
voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

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

Text (st. 1): James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.; (st. 4): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, alt.
Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879. Text and tune: Public domain

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned...
For to us a child is born.
To us a son is given.
The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.
He will be named:
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.
There will be no limit to his authority
and no end to the peace he brings.
He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness
from now on, into eternity.
The zeal of the Lord of Armies will accomplish this.



All My Heart Again Rejoices



1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es as I hear
2 Hear! The con - quer - or has spo - ken: "Now the foe,
4 See the Lamb, our sin once tak - ing to the cross,



far and near sweet - est an - gel voic - es.
sin and woe, death and hell are bro - ken!"
suf - f'ring loss, full a - tone - ment mak - ing.



"Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing till the air
God is man, man to de - liv - er, and the Son
For our life his own he ten - ders, and his grace



ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.
now is one with our blood for - ev - er.
all our race fit for glo - ry ren - ders.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr., adapt.
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662. Text and tune: Public domain

Fourth Lesson
Isaiah 11:1-9

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

A shoot will spring up from the stump of Jesse, and a Branch from his roots will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will 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.

He will be delighted with the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, nor will he render decisions based on what he hears with his ears, but with righteousness he will judge the poor, and he will render fair decisions in favor of the oppressed on the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath from his lips he will put the wicked to death. Righteousness will be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his hips.

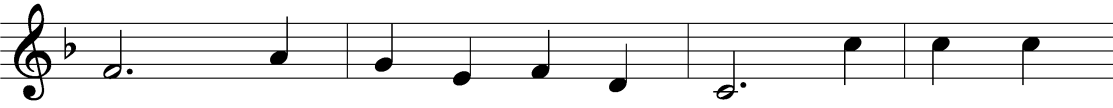
Behold, a Branch Is Growing



1 Be - hold, a branch is grow - ing of love - liest form and
2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it in words of prom - ise



grace! As proph-ets sang, fore-know-ing, it springs from Jes - se's
sure, and Mar - y's arms en - fold it, a vir - gin meek and



race and now be - gins to flow'r in midst of
pure. Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to



cold - est win - ter, at deep - est mid - night hour.
her is giv - en at mid - night calm and still.

Text: tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925; German, 16th cent. Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, Köln, 1599. Text and tune: Public domain

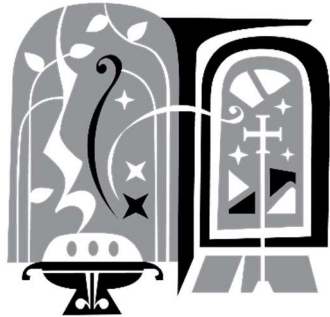
Fifth Lesson
Luke 1:26–38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.

The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women.” But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end.” Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Listen, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age even though she was called barren, and this is her sixth month. For nothing will be impossible for God.” Then Mary said, “See, I am the Lord’s servant. May it happen to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.



Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing

stall; ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the
new saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, ti - dings

child is Lord of all. Swift - ly wing - ing an - gels
of a gos - pel true. Thus re - joic - ing, free from

sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, ti - dings bring - ing: Christ the
sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row: Christ the

child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt. Tune: Polish. Text and tune: Public domain

Sixth Lesson
Luke 2:1-7

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. And everyone went to register, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called

Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family line of David. He went to be registered with Mary, his wife, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

Please stand.

And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

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 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: tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, 1862, alt.; French. Tune: French. Text and tune: Public domain

Please be seated.

The Seventh Lesson
Luke 2:8–16

The shepherds go to the manger.

There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to 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 behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.” When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

To Shepherds as They Watched by Night



1 To shep - herds as they watched by night ap - peared a
2 “At Beth - le - hem, in Da - vid’s town, as Mi - cah
3 O then re - joice that through his Son God is with



host of an - gels bright; “Be - hold the ten - der
did of old make known. It is the Christ, your
sin - ners now at one; made like your - selves of



babe,” they said, “in yon - der low - ly man - ger laid,
Lord and King, who will to all sal - va - tion bring.”
flesh and blood, your broth - er is th’e - ter - nal God.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, alt.
Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621. Text and tune: Public domain

The Eighth Lesson
Matthew 2:1-12

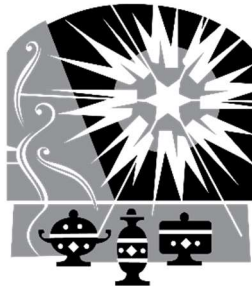
The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, “Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. He gathered together all the people’s chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel.”

Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.” After listening to the king, they went on their way.

Then the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.



I Stand beside Your Manger Here

1 I stand be - side your man - ger here, O Je - sus,
3 Death held me in the deep - est night till you, my
life from heav - en. The gifts I bring as I draw near
sun - shine beam - ing, brought joy and bliss and life and light,
are what to me you've giv - en: my spir - it,
in love my soul re - deem - ing. O Sun, your
cour - age, mind, and heart— take all I am, take
rays so warm and fair have made my dark - ness
ev - 'ry part; in mer - cy let it please you.
dis - ap - pear— faith's pre - cious light is shin - ing.

Text: tr. Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr. Tune: Geistliche Lieder auff's new gebessert, Wittenberg, 1535, ed. Joseph Klug
Text: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 713891. Tune: Public domain

Ninth Lesson
John 1:1-14

St. 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. He was with God in the beginning. Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind. The light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Please stand.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy 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.

Amen.

May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Lighting of the Candles

We light each other's candles off of the one Christ candle. This represents our fellowship with Jesus, the Light of the World, and with each other.

Silent Night, Holy Night

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,
all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face
Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy
peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885; Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848
Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787–1863. Text and tune: Public domain

**The poinsettias in the sanctuary and narthex
are given to the glory of God by:**

- Ann Trewin in memory of Gib Trewin, Bob & June Kartos and Marie Trewin
- Stacy & Sammy Behnke in memory of Angie Behnke
- The Fell Family in memory of Douglas Fell
- Mark & Debbie Weber in memory of Orrin & Harriet Kletzine and Terry Kletzine
- Glenn & Jenna Beske in memory of David Beske and David & Bonny Zarbock
- Joy & Brian Schwark in memory of their parents David & Bonny Zarbock and Barbara Schwark
- Don & Vonni Dunn in memory of Bill & Mary Lou Vilski
- Dave Oelke in memory of his Mother & Father
- Rose Orvis in memory of Lorin Orvis
- Terry & Jill Reynolds in memory of Jeanne Colla & Michael Colla
- Michele Reinhold in memory of Parents & Grandparents
- Vicki Brandau in memory of Joel Brandau
- Lori Hardie in memory of Kurt Hardie
- Jan Westphal & Family in memory of David Westphal
- Barbara Krug in memory of Frank & Lois Krug
- Paula Walser, Brett, Shelby, Bea & Easton Walser and David, Colleen & Hayden Walser in memory of Richard Walser
- Family of Bea & Bob Gorske in memory of Bea & Bob Gorske
- In memory of Flora & Willard Huizenga and Violet & Robert Ellis, parents of Bill & Chris Huizenga
- Suzanne Kollmann in memory of her parents, Robert & Clara Schwertfeger and Sister & Brother in Law, Kathy & David Henke
- The Hanson & Toerpe Families in memory of Hollie Hanson
- Phil & Carolyn Kramer in memory of daughter, Michele and Mother, Gertrude Krueger
- Karla Lockwood & John Pitzlin, Jr. in memory of their parents, Barb & John Pitzlin, Sr.

- Joe & Nancy Birkholz in memory of Bob & June Kartos
- Lois Priebe in memory of Tom Priebe & Trish Babler
- Gary & Addie Jackson in memory of their daughter Carey Jackson
- Mark & Heather Lueck in memory of their grandson Maverick Russart
- Lucille Lohse in memory of Lawrence & Georgia Lohse and Larry Lohse
- In memory of Patricia Thornburg
- Ron & Marilyn Repp in memory of their great granddaughter, Bristol Bruesch
- Mark & Betty Orvis in memory of Joseph & Lucille Grailer
- Pete & Trish Reitz in memory of Sandy Reitz & Trish Ann Prickette
- The Family of Mark Krewald in memory of Mark Krewald
- Terry & Glenda Wickert in memory of Jack & Bernice Parman and Marilyn Wells
- Dick & Bev Putz in memory of LaDonna & Floyd Schwecke
- Dick Putz Family in memory of Cliff & Joyce Becker and Lloyd & Virginia Putz
- Luke, Sarah, Phoebe, Chloe, Mary, Boaz, Elizabeth, Josiah, Hannah & Gideon Boehringer in memory of Zechariah Frederick Boehringer
- The Boehringer Family in memory of Pastor Michael Zuberbier
- Lee, Colleen & Yvonne Fink in memory of Bob Fink
- Rick & Patti Kreis in memory of their parents Donna & Lyle Kegley and Sophie & Bill Kreis and their daughter Amy Scott
- Dewane & Mary Scheidt in memory of Pastor Zuberbier
- Sharon Kurtzahn in memory of Jerome Geiger
- Mark & Bev Feucht in memory of Wes & Marcella Pade

The special Christmas Eve bulletin covers are given by the Hanson & Toerpe families in memory of Hollie Hanson, wishing you a blessed holiday season.