

Upstate New York Synod Lessons and Carols Service

A Joint Project of Congregations across the Synod

For use December 25th or December 27th, 2020



PRELUDE

Divinum Mysterium by Gerald Near

Played by Erik Kibelsbeck, St. Luke Lutheran Church, Ithaca, NY

WELCOME

*The Rev. Lori Kochanski
Assistant to the Bishop*

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ELW #283

Musical contributions from across the synod, edited by Jonathan Madden

OPENING DIALOGUE

Mollenkopf-Grill Family

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

~ ~ ~

FIRST LESSON *Isaiah 52:7-10*

*Read by Luis Clemente
Hope Lutheran Church, Troy (N. Greenbush)*

- 7 How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
8 Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;

for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
9 Break forth together into singing,
you ruins 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.

The Word of the Lord.

REFLECTION

*The Rev. Norma Malfatti
UNY Synod Director for Evangelical Mission*

CAROL

Joy to the World

ELW #267

*Submitted by St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Pittsford
Sung/played by Jonathan Madden, music director, and the Rev. Johanna Rehbaum, pastor
Featuring pictures of ministries around the synod.*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let every 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.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all 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 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.

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.

~ ~ ~

LESSON *Psalm 98*

Read by kids of the Upstate New York Synod

- 1 O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.
- 2 The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

3 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.
4 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
5 Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.
7 Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.
8 Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
9 at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming
to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

~ ~ ~

LESSON *Hebrews 1:1-4*

*The Rev. Tara Eastman
King of Kings Lutheran Church, Liverpool*

While Hebrews is read, Pastor Eastman will paint the text.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. 3 He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

CAROL Of the Father's Love Begotten

ELW #295

*Performed by Dan Foster of St. John's Lutheran Church, Albany
Featuring art and stained glass from various congregations' buildings.*

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

Continued on next page.

Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.

This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
now he shines the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord
evermore and evermore.

Let the heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him and extol their God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring
evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory
evermore and evermore.

~ ~ ~

LESSON *John 1:1-14* *Read by Karen Immerman, Bethany Lutheran, Elmira*
Featuring various congregations' Christmas decorations

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

REFLECTION

Bishop John Macholz

CAROL

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

ELW #270

Played by Thatcher Lyman, Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word, Rochester, NY

Featuring photos of ministry around the synod.

(Text on next page.)

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 angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

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

~ ~ ~

PRAYERS

*The Rev. Elisabeth Aurand
St. John's-St. Mark's, Canajoharie*

BLESSING

*Bishop John Macholz,
Conference Deans, and Executive Staff*

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace,
and joy, and hope, and love, and life, and healing and patience,
and gentleness, and wonder, and promise.

SENDING HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW #289

*A collaboration by many Lutherans,
created by the Association for Lutheran Church Musicians*

~ ~ ~

*Many thanks to all who contributed to this service.
A special thanks to Nick Stroczkowski (Lutheran Youth, WNY)
for compiling the many contributions and creating the video.*

*This has been a difficult year for everyone, yet Jesus comes among us still.
We are Church together!*

O Come All Ye Faithful:

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Divinum Mysterium:

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