

An Abbreviated  
Service of Lessons & Carols  
January 03, 2020, 10:30 am

Opening Carol: *Once in royal David's city* vs. 1, 2, & 5

*1. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.*

*2. He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.*

*5. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
for that child who seemed so helpless is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.*

Leader: Dear People of God: In the season of Christmas, 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 early 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, 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, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Leader: 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.*

**First Lesson: *God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head. (from Genesis 3)***

The man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they 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.” Here ends the lesson.

**Carol: *God rest ye merry gentlemen vs. 1-3***

*1 God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,  
to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;*

*Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

*2 From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;  
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:  
how that in Bethlehem was born the son of God by name, [Refrain]*

*3 "Fear not, then," said the angel, "let nothing you affright;*

*this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,  
to free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might." [Refrain]*  
**Second Lesson: *The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary (from Luke )***

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." 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?" 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 born will be holy; he will be called Son of 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. Here ends the lesson.

**Carol:** *The angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

*1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favored lady," Gloria!*

*2. "For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honor thee,  
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
most highly favored lady," Gloria!*

*3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,*

*"my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."  
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!*

**Third Lesson: *St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus (from Luke)***

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. 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.  
Here ends the lesson.

**Carol: *What child is this?***

*1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?*

***Refrain:***

*This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.*

*2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. (Refrain)*

**Fourth Lesson: *The shepherds go to the manger. (from Luke)***

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, 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. Here ends the lesson.

**Carol:** *Angels we have heard on high*

*1 Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,  
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.*

*Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?*

*What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear? [Refrain]*

**Fifth Lesson:**

*St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation. (from John)*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And 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. Here ends the lesson.

**Carol:** *Of the Father's love begotten*

*1 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!*

*4 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!*

Collect: Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by

your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever. *Amen.*

**Closing Carol:** *O come all ye faithful*

*1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem; come, and behold him,  
born the King of angels;*

*Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*2 God from God, Light from Light eternal,  
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
only-begotten Son of the Father; [Refrain]*

*3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God, glory in the highest; [Refrain]*

*6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; [Refrain]*

**Dismissal**