A Festival of Lessons and Carols

ST. JOHN PAUL II
SCIOTO CATHOLIC PARISH



St. John Paul II Scioto Catholic Parish

Sunday, December 13, 2026
7:00pm

Music by the Parish Choir,
Vox Gaudium, and the Christmas Choristers

Mr. Patrick Torsell
Director of Sacred Music.

Organist: Dr. Jeremiah Martin

Pastor: Fr. Stephen Smith, KHS
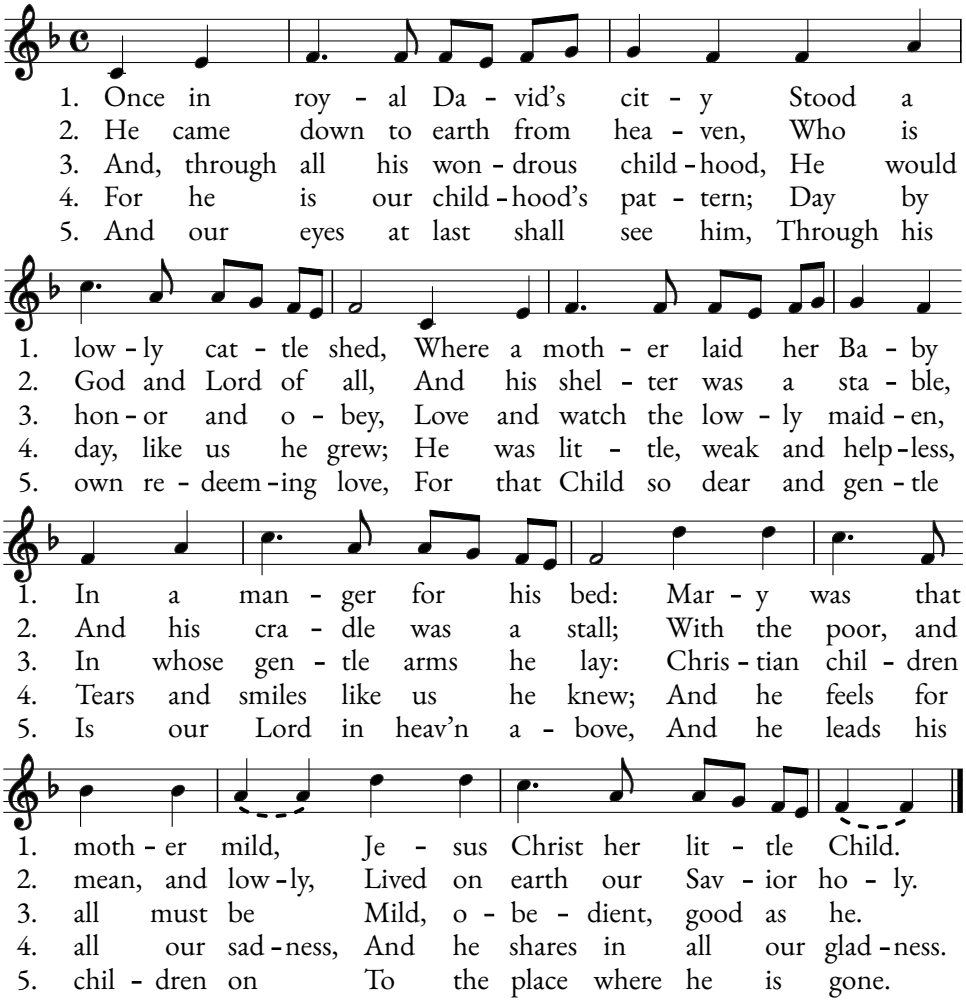
ORGAN PRELUDE - DR. JEREMIAH MARTIN

CALL TO PRAYER - FROM STARRY SKIES DESCENDING

Arr. Stephen J. Smith
Sung by *Vox Gaudium*, St. John Paul II's parish chamber choir

PROCESSION CAROL

Once in Royal David's City



Text: Cecil F. Alexander. Melody: IRBY, 8.7.8.7.7.7; Henry J. Gauntlett.

OPENING PRAYER

Celebrant: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

℟. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Beloved in Christ, in this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in the manger.

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 let us make this *place* glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of His whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which He died, and especially in this country and within this *city*.

And because this of all things would rejoice His heart, let us at this time remember in His name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God His pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

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

All: Our Father...

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

℟. **And with your spirit.**

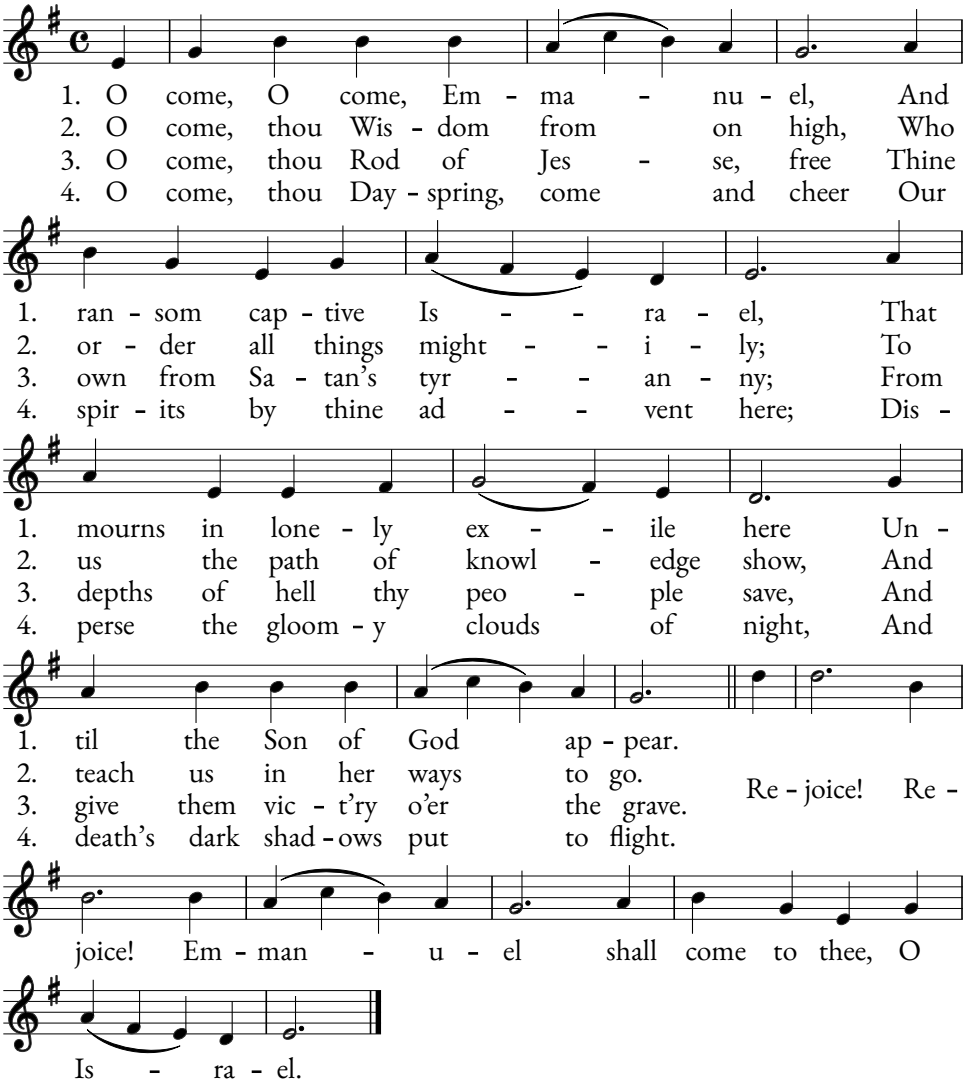
Celebrant: Let us pray: May Almighty God bless us with His grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.

℟. **Amen.**

You may be seated for the lessons and carols. Please join your voices to our choirs' in joyfully singing the carols printed in this program.

CAROL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



5. O come, thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

6. O come, O come, great Lord of might,
Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times once gave the law
In cloud and majesty and awe.

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid thou our sad divisions cease,
And be thyself our King of Peace.

Text: *Veni, Veni Emmanuel*, 9th c.; Tr. John M. Neale and Henry S. Coffin.
Melody: VENI EMMANUEL, 8.8.8.8. (L.M.) with refrain; 15th c. French; Adapt. Thomas Helmore.

FIRST LESSON

Gn 3: 9-15

A reading from the Book of Genesis

After the man, Adam, had eaten of the tree, the LORD God called to the man and asked him, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself." Then he asked, "Who told you that you were naked? You have eaten, then, from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat!" The man replied, "The woman whom you put here with me— she gave me fruit from the tree, and so I ate it." The LORD God then asked the woman, "Why did you do such a thing?" The woman answered, "The serpent tricked me into it, so I ate it."

Then the LORD God said to the serpent: / "Because you have done this, you shall be banned / from all the animals / and from all the wild creatures; / on your belly shall you crawl, / and dirt shall you 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 at your head, / while you strike at his heel."

The word of the Lord.
℟. Thanks be to God.



CAROL

O Come, Divine Messiah

1. O come, Di - vine Mes - si - ah, The world in si - lence waits the day When hope shall sing its tri - umph, And sad - ness flee a - way.
2. O you, whom na - tions sigh for, Whom priest and proph - et long fore - told, Will break the cap - tive fet - ters, Re - deem the long - lost fold. Dear Sav - ior, haste!
3. You come in peace and meek - ness, And low - ly will your cra - dle be: All clothed in hu - man weak - ness We shall your God - head see.

Come, come to earth. Dis - pel the night and show your face, And bid us hail the dawn of grace. O come, Di - vine Mes si - ah, The world in si - lence waits the day When hope shall sing its tri - umph, And sad - ness flee a - way.

Text: *Venez, divin Messie*, M. l'abbé Pellegrin; Tr. Sister Mary of St. Philip.
Melody: VENEZ DIVIN MESSIE, 7.8.7.6 with refrain; 16th c. French.



SECOND LESSON

Jer 23: 5-8

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

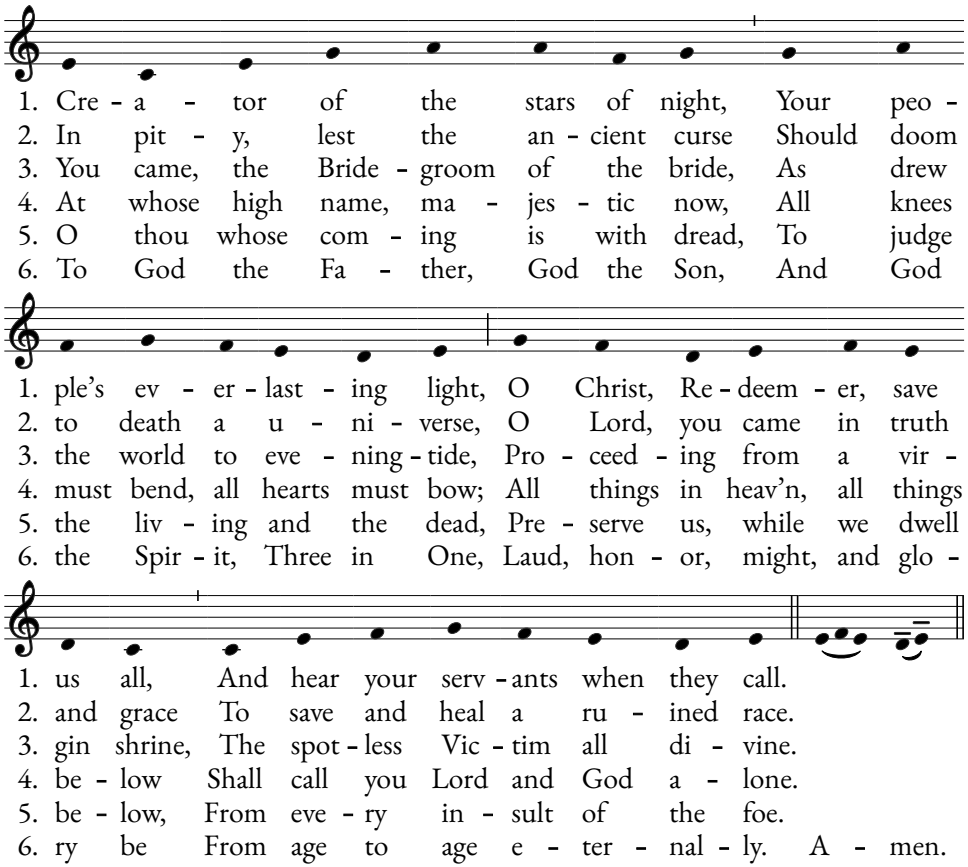
Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, / when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David; / As king he shall reign and govern wisely, / he shall do what is just and right in the land. / In his days Judah shall be saved, / Israel shall dwell in security. / This is the name they give him: / "The LORD our justice."

Therefore, the days will come, says the LORD, when they shall no longer say, "As the LORD lives, who brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt"; but rather, "As the LORD lives, who brought the descendants of the house of Israel up from the land of the north"– and from all the lands to which I banished them; they shall again live on their own land.

The word of the Lord.
℟. Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Creator of the Stars of Night



Text: *Conditor Alme Siderum*, 7th c. Latin; Tr. John M. Neale, alt.
Melody: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, 8.8.8.8. (L.M.), Mode 4; Anon.

THIRD LESSON

Is 11: 1-10

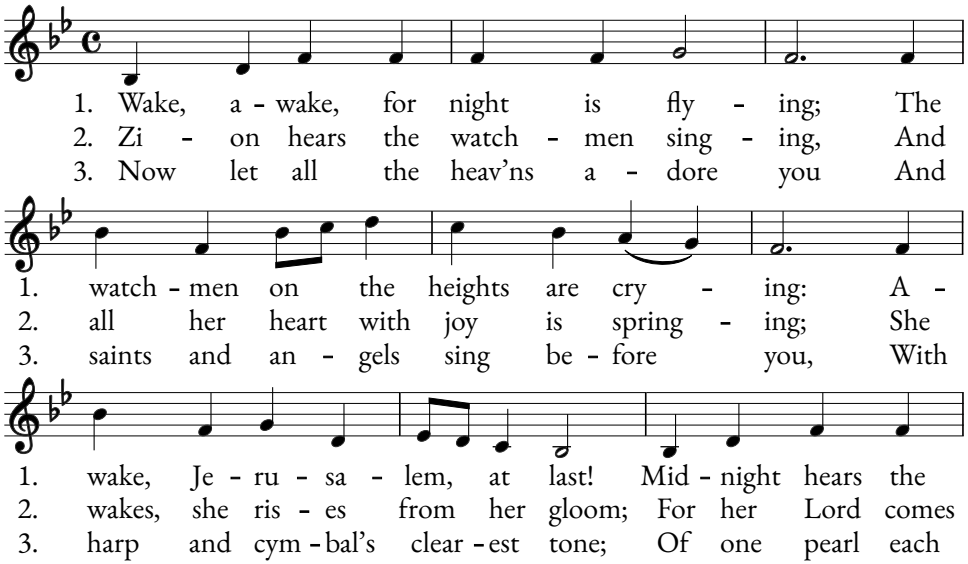
A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah
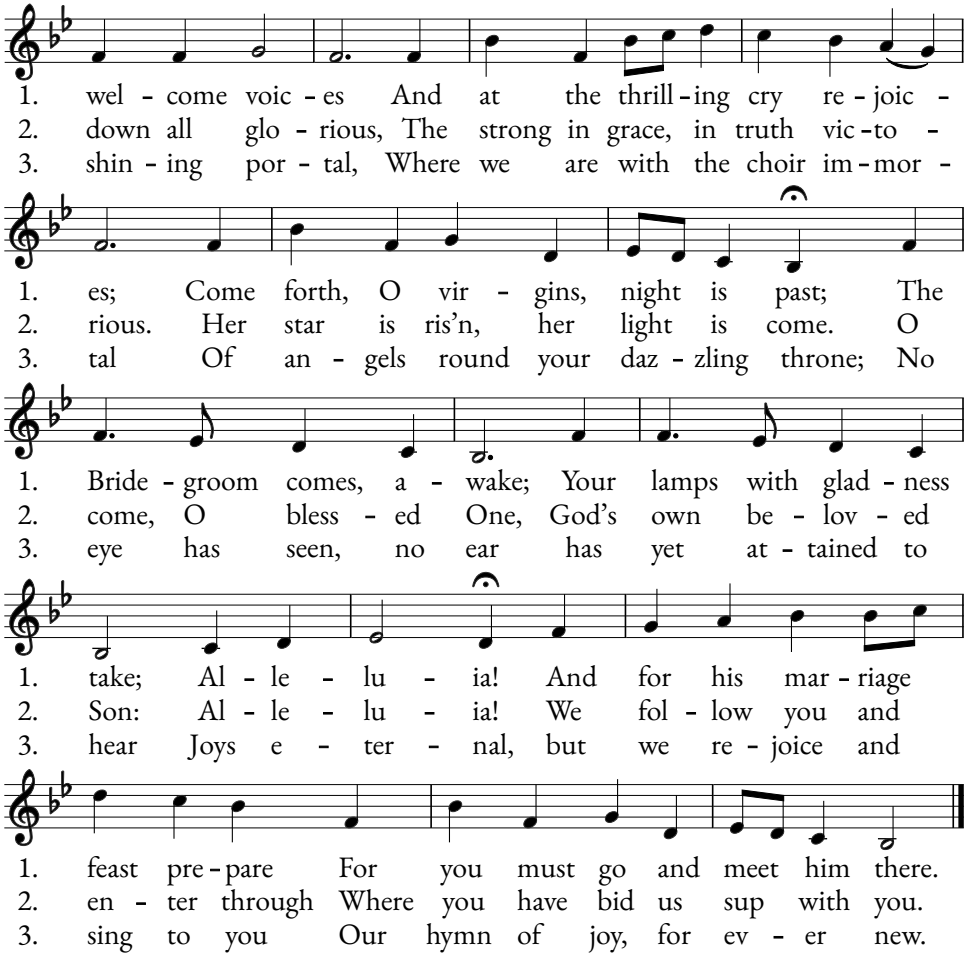
On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, / and from his roots a bud shall blossom. / The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: / a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, / a spirit of counsel and of strength, / a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD, / and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD. / Not by appearance shall he judge, / nor by hearsay shall he decide, / but he shall judge the poor with justice, / and decide aright for the land's afflicted. / He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth, / and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. / Justice shall be the band around his waist, / and faithfulness a belt upon his hips. / Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, / and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; / the calf and the young lion shall browse together, / with a little child to guide them. / The cow and the bear shall be neighbors, / together their young shall rest; / the lion shall eat hay like the ox. / The baby shall play by the cobra's den, / and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. / There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain; / for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, / as water covers the sea. / On that day, the root of Jesse, / set up as a signal for the nations, / the Gentiles shall seek out, / for his dwelling shall be glorious.

The word of the Lord.
℟. Thanks be to God.

HYMN

Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying





Text: *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*, Phillip Nicolai; Tr. Catherine Winkworth.
Melody: WACHET AUF, 89.8.89.8.66.4.44.8; Philipp Nicolai.



FOURTH LESSON

Is 9: 1-6

The people who walked in darkness / have seen a great light; / Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom / a light has shone. / You have brought them abundant joy / and great rejoicing, / As they rejoice before you as at the harvest, / as men make merry when dividing spoils. / For the yoke that burdened them, / the pole on their shoulder, / And the rod of their taskmaster / you have smashed, as on the day of Midian. / For every boot that tramped in battle, / every cloak rolled in blood, / will be burned as fuel for flames.

For a child is born to us, a son is given us; / upon his shoulder dominion rests. / They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, / Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. / His dominion is vast / and forever peaceful, / From David's throne, and over his kingdom, / which he confirms and sustains / By judgment and justice, / both now and forever. / The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

CAROL - REJOICE GREATLY

Herbert Hall Woodward
Sung by the Parish Choir

FIFTH LESSON

Lk 1: 26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

"Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "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 called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

CAROL - DIXIT MARIA

Hans Leo Hassler
Sung by *Vox Gaudium,* our parish chamber choir

Mary said to the angel: Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word.

SIXTH LESSON

Lk 2: 1-14
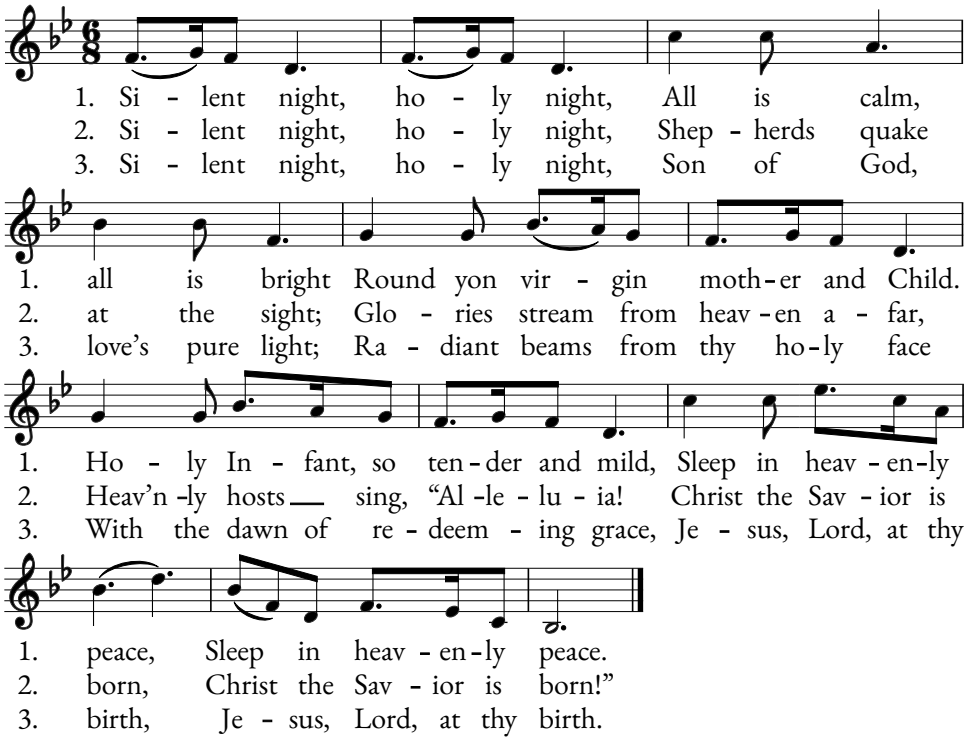
In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest / and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

CAROL

Silent Night



Text: *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht*, Joseph Mohr; Tr. John F. Young. Melody: STILLE NACHT, 6.6.8.9.6.6; Franz Gruber.

SEVENTH LESSON

Mt 2: 1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: / *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, / are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; / since from you shall come a ruler, / who is to shepherd my people Israel.*" / Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

CAROL - ES IST EIN ROSE ENTSPRUNGEN

Harm. Michael Praetorious
Sung by the Parish Choir



EIGHTH LESSON

Jn 1: 1-18

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 to be through him, / and without him nothing came to be. / What came to be through him was life, / and this life was the light of the human race; / the light shines in the darkness, / and the darkness has not overcome it.

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, / and the world came to be through him, / but the world did not know him. / He came to what was his own, / but his own people did not accept him.

But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God.

And the Word became flesh / and made his dwelling among us, / and we saw his glory, / the glory as of the Father's only-begotten Son, / full of grace and truth.

John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only-begotten Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.

CAROL - ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
Sung by *Vox Gaudium*

O loving Mother of our Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea,
Hasten to aid thy fallen people who strive to rise once more.
Thou who brought forth thy holy Creator, all creation wond'ring,
Yet remainest ever Virgin, taking from Gabriel's lips
that joyful "Hail!": be merciful to us sinners.
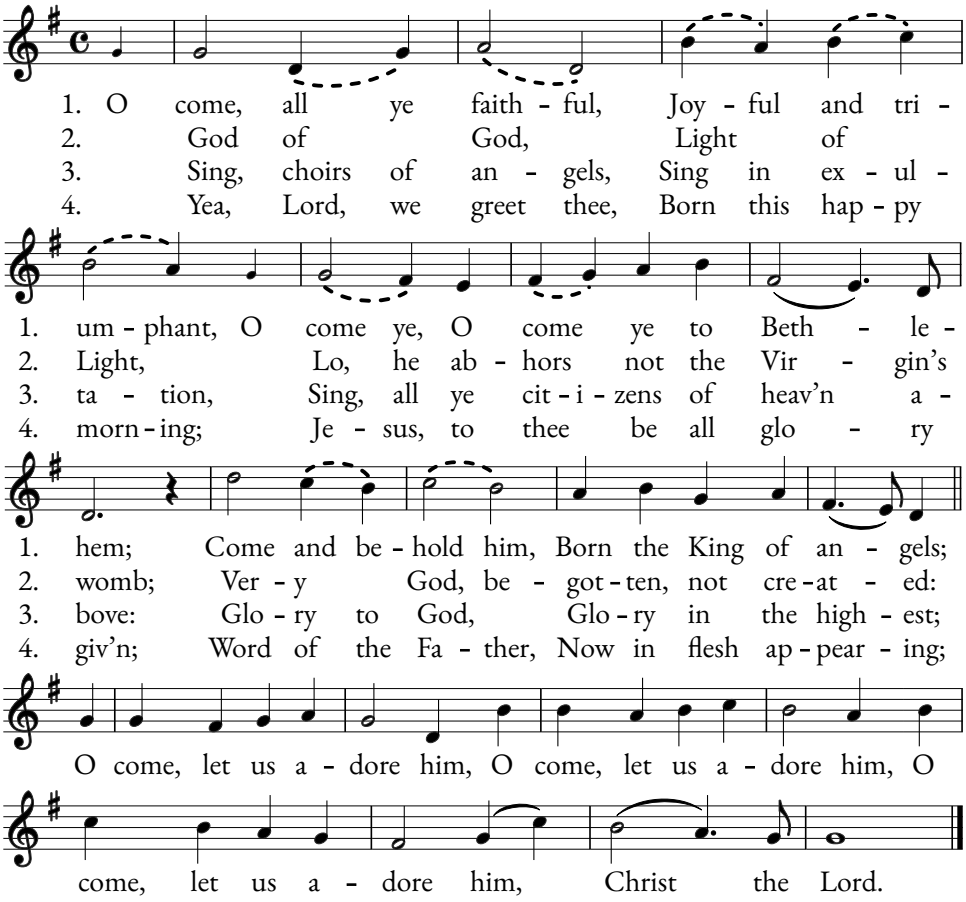


NINTH LESSON

Mt 28: 16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they all saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful



Text: *Adeste Fideles*, Attr. John F. Wade; Tr. Frederick Oakeley.
Melody: ADESTE FIDELES, Irregular with refrain; Attr. John F. Wade.

FINAL PRAYER

Stand

Celebrant: Let us pray. O God, Who make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold Him, when He shall come to be our judge; Who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.

℟. **Amen.**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

℟. **And with your spirit.**

Celebrant: May almighty God bless you, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

℟. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Go in Peace.

℟. **Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING CAROL - HALLELUJAH CHORUS

G.F. Handel
Sung by the Parish Choir. Feel free to sing along!

ORGAN POSTLUDE - DR. JEREMIAH MARTIN



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