

December 28, 2025 | 10:00am



Bethlehem

Lutheran Church & Preschool

First Sunday After Christmas



18865 SW Johnson St. | Aloha, OR 97003 | 503-649-3380 | www.BLCFAMILY.org

Lessons & Carols

December 28, 2025 | 10:00 am

Welcome & Announcements

Joy to the World

LW #53

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry 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.

Invocation & Call to Worship

(taken from Psalm 96)

- L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**
L: Sing to the Lord a new song;
C: **sing to the Lord, all the earth!**
L: Sing to the Lord and bless God's name;
C: **tell the good news of salvation from day to day.**
L: Declare God's glory among the nations, God's marvelous works among all the peoples.
C: **For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.**
L: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.
C: **Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world, and those who live in it.**
L: Let the whole creation sing for joy at the presence of God, who is coming.
C: **God is coming indeed, to judge the earth with righteousness, and the peoples with equity and truth. Praise the Lord!**

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15

*God announces, in the Garden of Eden, that the heel of the woman's
offspring shall crush the serpent's head.*

⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall crush your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

- L: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

He Has Come For Us

God rest ye 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.
O, tidings of comfort and joy.
Comfort and joy.
O, tidings of comfort and joy.

Chorus: He has come for us, this Jesus.
He's the hope for all mankind.
He has come for us, the Messiah.
Born to give us life.

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.
O, tidings of comfort and joy.
Comfort and joy.
O, tidings of comfort and joy. (chorus 2 times)

Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

*God promises to Abraham that, by his descendants,
the nations of the earth will be blessed.*

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

LW #62 v1,4

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, from heav'n's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days have come to pass by prophets seen of old,
When down into the circling years came Christ as was foretold.
His word of peace shall to the earth God's ancient promise bring,
And all who take this gift will hear the song the angels sing.

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-8

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

L: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light:

C: **those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.**

L: You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy;

C: **they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as people rejoice when dividing the plunder.**

L: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be on his shoulders;

C: **and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

L: Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forevermore.

C: **The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.**

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Come, Jesus, Prince of Peace

Come, O come, Emmanuel, come to us and stay.
Come, O come, Emmanuel, could this be the day?
Jesus, Prince of Peace, hope of all the earth.
Come, O come, Emmanuel, we await Your birth.

Come, O come, Emmanuel, Joy of heav'n come down.
Come, O come, Emmanuel, King without a crown.
Jesus, Prince of Peace, come to guide our way.
Come, O come, Emmanuel, live in us today.

Come, O come, Emmanuel, Branch of Jesse's tree.
Come, O come, Emmanuel, set Your children free.
Jesus, Prince of Peace, gentle as a dove.
Come, O come, Emmanuel, Messenger of love.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel. Shall come to you, O Israel!
Come, O come, Emmanuel, we await Your birth.

Fourth Lesson

Micah 5:2-4

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of Bethlehem.

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LW #60 v1,4

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-35,38

The angel Gabriel comes to Mary.

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." ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ And the angel answered 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 called holy— the Son of God."

³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

What Child Is This

LW #61 v1-2

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?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

¹ 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.

C: 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.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Away in a Manger

LSB #364 v1,3

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

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 fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a 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,

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

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.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Preschool 3 Year Old Class Songs

Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

LW #49 v1,3

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you 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!"

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!"

Offering

Bringing tithes and financial gifts to the Lord is an act of worship. These offerings help to accomplish ministry both here at Bethlehem and around the world. May God bless your response of faith.

Please take a moment and fill out the red Friendship Register.

Preschool 4 Year Old Class Songs

Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

The Wisemen are led by the star to Jesus.

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Prayer of Confession

L: Let us pray together:

C: Lord, we just heard about the wisemen bringing gifts of great worth to the infant Savior. We too, should be continually offering You the best of who we are and what we have. Father, You know that we fail to do this as we should. We say, "no" to opportunities to serve You. We hold on to the blessings that You give to us and keep them for ourselves. We view our gifts and treasures as things that we deserve and have earned. Forgive us, and remind us that all good and perfect gifts come from You alone. Help us to live lives of service to You. In Jesus name. Amen.

Absolution

L: In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ, was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **Amen.**

Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the Church & The Lord's Prayer

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.

Words of Institution

Distribution of Holy Communion

Angels We Have Heard on High

LW #55

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains,
Glo - - - ria, in excelsis deo! Glo - - - ria, in excelsis deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?
Glo - - - ria, in excelsis deo! Glo - - - ria, in excelsis deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Glo - - - ria, in excelsis deo! Glo - - - ria, in excelsis deo!

The First Noel

LBW #56 v1-2

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

Angels From the Realms of Glory

LW #50

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story; now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations, you have seen His natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Post Communion Blessing

- L: Now may this body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you steadfast in the true faith to life everlasting. Go in peace.
C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

- L: We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

Ninth Lesson

John 1:1-14

St. John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God!

Benediction

- L: May the God who finds room to be born in Bethlehem's stable find room to grow in our hearts and lives.
C: Amen.
L: May the God who took on flesh that we might take on eternal life grant us the vision to see Christ enfleshed in the world around us.
C: Amen.
L: May the God of angels and shepherds and wisemen reveal to us God's love for us just as we are.
C: Amen.
L: And may the blessing of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon us and remain with us always.
C: Amen.

Closing Song

Go Tell It on the Mountain

LW #53 v4

*Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

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It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1080-76, alt. Tune: Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900
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O Little Town of Bethlehem
Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-93 Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908
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What Child Is This
Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98 Tune: English ballad, 16th cent.
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Away in a Manger
Text: author unknown, c. 1883, sts. 1-2; John T. McFarland, 1851-1913, st. 3, alt.
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Angels We Have Heard on High
Text: French carol; tr. H.F. Herry, Crown of Jesus Music, Part II, 1862, alt. Tune: French carol
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Angels From the Realms of Glory
Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, sts. 1-3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4; alt.
Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79
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Hark the Herald Angels Sing
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt. Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-47
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Go Tell It On the Mountain
Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work II, 1879-1925, stanzas, alt.
Tune: African American spiritual; setting: Hugh Porter, 1897-1960
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