

December 26, 2021

First Sunday of Christmas



If you are an online guest today, please leave a record of your visit, below. Thank you!

[Online Guest Form](#)

Messiah Lutheran Church

7740 Hwy 72 West, Madison, AL 35758
(256)721-0041 / www.mlutheran.org

SERVICE of LESSONS and CAROLS

THE PRELUDE

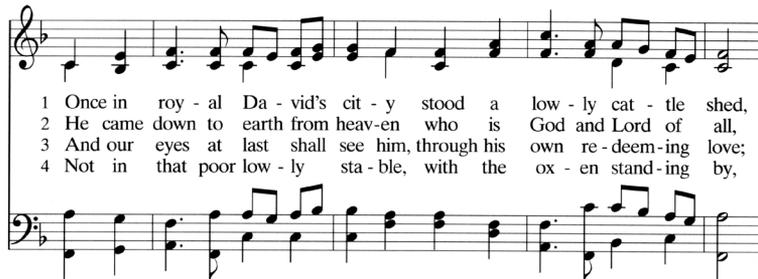
ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

HYMN: "Once in Royal David's City" vs 1-3

643

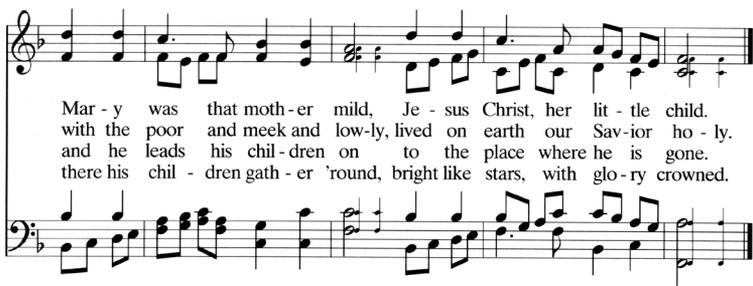
Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed;
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er 'round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crown'd.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Our Need for a Savior

FIRST READING

Genesis 3:8-15

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

¹⁵I 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."

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, Who to your tribes on
 3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's
 4 Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by your

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times once gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save
 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 In cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

God's Faithful Promise

SECOND READING

Genesis 22:15-18

¹⁵The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, ¹⁶and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your

offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies,¹⁸ and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”

HYMN: “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” vs. 1,3

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

50

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

Once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry; Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, Yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 Seek the great de - sire of na - tions, You have seen his na - tal star.
 Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing To the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain
 Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

God Promises a King

THIRD READING

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

² The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
 on them light has shined.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
 a son given to us;
 authority rests upon his shoulders;
 and he is named
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
 and there shall be endless peace
 for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
 with justice and with righteousness
 from this time onward and forevermore.
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

HYMN: "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" vs 1,4

54

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,
 3 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, Whose forms are bend-ing low,
 4 For lo! The days are has-t'ning on, By proph-ets seen of old,

From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:
 And still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world.
 Who toil a-long the climb-ing way With pain-ful steps and slow:
 When with the ev-er-cir-cling years Shall come the time fore-told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heav'n's all-gra-cious king."
 A-bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-ering wing,
 Look now, for glad and gold-en hours Come swift-ly on the wing;
 When peace shall o-ver all the earth Its an-cient splen-dors fling,

The world in sol-emn still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.
 And ev-er o'er its ba-bel sounds The bless-ed an-gels sing.
 Oh, rest be-side the wea-ry road And hear the an-gels sing!
 And all the world give back the song Which now the an-gels sing.

- 11** A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ²The spirit of the LORD shall 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.
- ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
- ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
- ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

Lo, How a Rose Is Growing

1 Lo, how a rose is grow - ing, A bloom of fin - est
 2 The rose of which I'm sing - ing, I - sa - iah had fore-
 3 The shep - herds heard the sto - ry The an - gels sang that
 4 This flow'r, so small and ten - der, With fra - grance fills the

grace: The proph - ets had fore - told it: A branch of Jes - se's
 told. He came to us through Mar - y Who shel - tered him from
 night: How Christ was born of Mar - y; He was the Son of
 air; His bright - ness ends the dark - ness That kept the earth in

race Would bear one per - fect flow'r Here in the
 cold. Through God's e - ter - nal will This child to
 light. To Beth - le - hem they ran To find him
 fear. True God and yet true man, He came to

cold of win - ter And dark - est mid - night hour.
 us was giv - en At mid - night calm and still.
 in the man - ger As an - gel her - alds sang.
 save his peo - ple From earth's dark night of sin.

The Annunciation to Mary

FIFTH READING

Luke 1:26-35, 38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And

now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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 ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ 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.

³⁸ 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.

HYMN: “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” v 1-2

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came 632

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 “To me be as it pleas - eth God,” she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,

“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 “My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 “Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,”

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.³ All went to their own towns to be registered.⁴ 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.⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.⁷ 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.

HYMN: "Away in a Manger"

Away in a Manger

67

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed, The lit - tle Lord
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes, But lit - tle Lord
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay Close by me for -

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; The stars in the sky . . . looked
Je - sus no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where he lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
your ten - der care And fit us for heav - en to live with you there.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

71

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 tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo - - - - -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

We Three Kings of Orient Are

646

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a -
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a -
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri -

far, field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 gain; king for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 nigh; prayer and prais - ing, glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
 gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 fice; heav'n sings al - le - lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain

Oh, star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty

bright; west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

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 came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,^[d] full of grace and truth.

HYMN: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" vs. 1, 2

42

Of the Father's Love Begotten

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
3 This is he whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; An - gel hosts, his

gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
prais - es sing; Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him

He the source, the end - ing he, Of the things that are, that
Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's re -
Prom - ised in their faith - ful word; Now he shines, the long - ex -
And ex - tol our God and King; Let no tongue on earth be

have deem - been, And that fu - ture years shall see,
deem - er, First re - vealed his sa - cred face,
pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring

Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men

OFFERING: *What Child Is This*

Instrumental Ensemble

OFFERTORY: "Holy Child within the Manger" vs 1,3

CHRISTMAS

Holy Child within the Manger

Carol at the Manger

638

Capo 1

(D) E^b (G) A^b (D) E^b

1 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, long a -
 2 Once a - gain we tell the sto - ry— how your
 3 Ho - ly Child with - in the man - ger, lead us

(Bm) Cm (Em⁷) Fm⁷ (A) B^b (Bm) Cm (Em) Fm

go yet ev - er near; come as friend to ev - 'ry
 love for us was shown, when the im - age of your
 ev - er in your way, so we see in ev - 'ry

(A) B^b (Bm) Cm (Em⁷) Fm⁷ (A⁷) B^{b7} (D) E^b

stran - ger, come as hope for ev - 'ry fear.
 glo - ry wore an im - age like our own.
 stran - ger how you come to us to - day.

(Bm) Cm (G) A^b (D) E^b (A) B^b (D) E^b

As you lived to heal the bro - ken, greet the
 Come, en - light - en with your wis - dom, come and
 In our lives and in our liv - ing give us

(G) A^b (D) E^b (A) B^b (F^{#7}) G⁷ (Bm) Cm (A) B^b

out - cast, free the bound, as you taught us love un -
 fill us with your grace. May the fire of your com -
 strength to live as you, that our hearts might be for -

(G) A^b (D) E^b (Em⁷) Fm⁷ (A⁷) B^{b7} (D) E^b

spo - ken, teach us now where you are found.
 pas - sion kin - dle ev - 'ry land and race.
 giv - ing and our spir - its strong and true.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

Glory to God in the highest,

And peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You are the hope of humanity.

Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.

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.**

THE BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL

HYMN: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

60

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of right-teous-ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on-ciled."
 Late in time be-hold him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,

With an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el!
 Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

THE POSTLUDE: *In Dulci Jubilo*

Instrumental Ensemble

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen