

ILCW Year-A Scripture Lessons for the Nativity Christmas Day

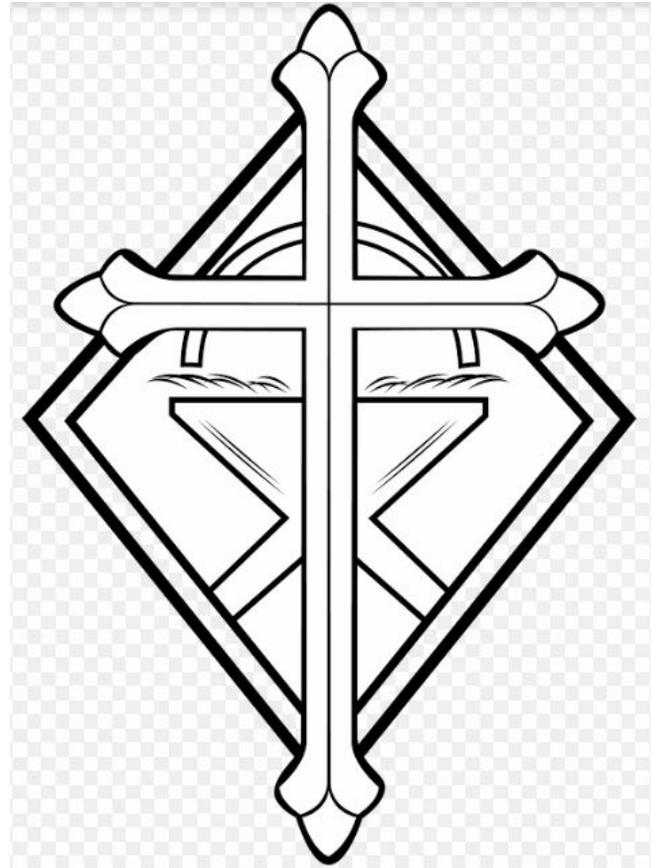
OLD TESTAMENT **Isaiah 62:10-12 NIV** Pass through, pass through the gates! Prepare the way for the people. Build up, build up the highway! Remove the stones. Raise a banner for the nations. 11 The LORD has made proclamation to the ends of the earth: "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your Savior comes! See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.'" 12 They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the LORD; and you will be called Sought After, the City No Longer Deserted.

EPISTLE **Titus 3:4-7** But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Gospel

Luke 2:1-20 KJV And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. 2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) 3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. 4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) 5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. 6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. 8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the LORD came upon them, and the glory of the LORD shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. 15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the LORD hath made known unto us. 16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. 17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. 18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. 20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL 
The Nativity of Our LORD      Christmas Day
December 25th, 2016  9:30 am Lessons & Carols



Historic Church Year Symbol Set for Christmas Eve or Day: Birth of Jesus

Image courtesy of the Lutheran Synod Publishing <https://lutheransynodpublishing.com>

**Rejoice, Rejoice, This Happy Morn!
A Savior unto us is born,
The Christ, the LORD of Glory.
His lowly birth in Bethlehem
The angels from on high proclaim
And sing redemption's story.
My soul, extol
God's great favor,
Bless Him ever
For salvation,
Give Him praise and adoration.**

Our Savior Lutheran Church ✕ Lakeland, FL USA

A Christ-Centered Confessional Lutheran Congregation

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Rev. Andrew Burmeister



DECEMBER 25, 2016

ORDER OF WORSHIP: SPECIAL SERVICE PRINTED BELOW

PRAYER FOR PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

O LORD, our Maker, Redeemer and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your Holy Word and to offer You our praise and worship. We pray, open our hearts by means of Your Holy Spirit so that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and in death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

A Service of Lessons and Carols In Celebration of Christ's Birth

Pastor's Greeting and Invocation

Pastor Andy Burmeister

OPENING *Once in Royal David's City* NOT IN TLH (ELH #139) CF ALEXANDER

1) Once in royal Da-vid's- city
Stood a lowly cat-tle- shed,
Where a mother laid- her- Baby
In a manger for- His- bed;
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her lit-tle- Child.

2) He came down from to earth from Heav'n, 3) Jesus is our child-hood's- pattern;
Who is God and LORD- of- all, Day by day like us- He- grew,
And His shelter was- a- stable, He was little, weak-, and- helpless,
And His cradle was- a- stall; Tears and smiles like us- He- knew;
With the poor and mean and lowly, And He feedeth for our sadness,
Lived on earth, our Savior holy. And He shareth in- our- gladness.

4) And our eyes at last- shall- see Him, 5) Not in that poor low-ly- stable
Through His own redeem-ing- love, With the oxen stan-ding- by
For that Child, so dear and gentle, Shall we see Him, but- in- heaven,
Is our LORD in Heav'n- a-bove; Set at God's Right Hand- on- high.
And He leads His children on Then like stars His children, crowned,
To the place where He- is- gone. All in white shall wait- a-round!

◇ p. 1 ◇

Historic Scripture Lessons for ✕ the Nativity of our Lord Old Testament

Isaiah 9:2-7 NIV The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. 3 You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. 4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. 5 Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire. 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 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 forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Epistle

Hebrews 1:1-12 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. 4 So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. 5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? 6 And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." 7 In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire." 8 But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. 9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy." 10 He also says, "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. 11 They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. 12 You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end."

Gospel

John 1:1-14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. 6 There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God -- 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

◇ 10 ◇

OFFERING (We gather our Christmas offerings for the Lord)

CLOSING COLLECT (Prayer) *P: Grant, we beseech You, almighty God, that the new Birth of Your only-begotten Son in the Flesh may set us free who are held in the old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.*

C: Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER (We All pray together)

**C: 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.**

BENEDICTION (Trinitarian Blessing)

P: The Grace of our LORD Jesus Christ, ✠ and the Love of God the Father, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **C: Amen**



CLOSING *Away in a Manger* NOT IN TLH (ELH #119) CRADLE SONG

1. **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.**
2. **The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little LORD Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is night.**
3. **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.**

SILENT PRAYER. (CANDLES OUT)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & FELLOWSHIP

OUR (SAVIOR) WELCOME

Our Savior congregation is so very pleased to have the opportunity to share with you the blessings of our Christ-centered ministry. We welcome you in the Name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. To the friends who know us, we renew our welcome and to our first time guests we extend it most sincerely. Come again!

(SATURDAY) **DEC. 31st 7:00 pm NEW YEAR'S EVE Worship W/ L.S.**
(SUNDAY) **JANUARY 1st 9:30 am NEW YEAR'S DAY Worship W/ L.S.**

The Christmas COLLECT (Prayer)

P: LORD God, heavenly Father, We give thanks to You that of Your mercy and compassion You caused Your Son to become incarnate, and through Him redeemed us from sin and everlasting death: We beseech you, enlighten our hearts by Your Holy Spirit, that we may ever be thankful for such grace, and comfort ourselves thereby in all tribulation and temptation, and at last obtain eternal salvation; through the same, Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God now and forever.

C: Amen

First Lesson: Genesis 3:9-18

**"So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food,
That it was pleasant to the eyes, and
a tree desirable to make one wise,
She took of its fruit and ate.
She also gave to her husband with
her, and he ate."**



HYMN *The Tree of Life* NOT IN TLH (ELH #302) SP STARKE

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|--|---|
| <p>1) The Tree of Life with ev'ry good
In Eden's holy orchard stood,
And of its fruit so pure and sweet
God let the man and woman eat.
Yet in this garden also grew
Another tree, of which they knew;
Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned
Against whose eating God had warned.</p> <p>3) What mercy God showed to our race,
A plan of rescue by His grace:
In sending One from woman's Seed,
The One to fill our greatest need -
For on a tree uplifted high
His only Son for sin would die,
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread
To crust the ancient serpent's head!</p> | <p>2) The stillness of that sacred grove
Was broken, as the serpent strove
With tempting voice to Eve beguile
And Adam too, by sin defile.
O day of sadness when the breath
Of fear and darkness, doubt and death
Its awful poison first displayed
Within the world so newly made.</p> <p>4) Now from that tree of Jesus' shame
Flows life eternal in His Name;
For all who trust, and will believe,
Salvation's living fruit receive.
And of this fruit so pure and sweet
The LORD invites the world to eat,
To find within this Cross of wood
The Tree of Life with every good.</p> |
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Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18

"But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' So he said, 'Here I am.' And He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the lad, for do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."



2ND CAROL Now Sing We, Now Rejoice TLH #92 IN DULCI JUBILO

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| <p>1. Now sing we, now rejoice--,
Now raise to Heav'n our voice--;
Lo! He from Whom joy streameth,
Poor in the manger lies--;
Yet not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies--!
Thou my Savior art--
THOU MY SAV-IOR ART!</p> | <p>2. Giv'n from on high to me--;
I cannot rise to Thee--
Cheer my wearied spirit,
O Pure and Holy Child--,
Through all Thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, LORD most mild--,
Draw me unto Thee--
DRAW ME UN-TO THEE!</p> |
| <p>3. Now through His Son doth shine--
The Father's grace divine--.
Death o'er us had reign-ed
Through sin and vanity--;
The Son for us obtain-ed
Eternal joy on high--.
May we praise Him there--
MAY WE PRAISE- HIM THERE!</p> | <p>4. Oh, where shall joy be found--?
Where but on Heav'nly ground?
Where the angels singing
With all His saints unite--,
Their sweetest praises bringing
In Heav'nly joy and light--.
Oh, that we were there--
OH, THAT WE- WERE THERE!</p> |

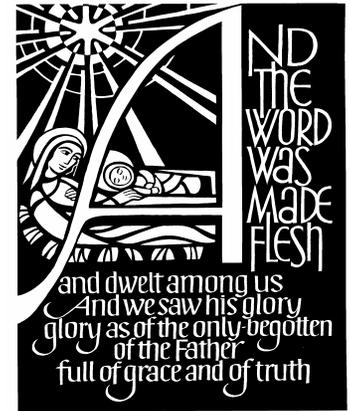
Third Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2,6-7

"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."



Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14

"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 were made through Him,
and without Him
nothing was made that was made.
In Him was life,
and the life was the light of men."



9TH CAROL From Heaven Above to Earth I Come TLH #85 LUTHER

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|---|---|
| <p>1)"From Heaven above to earth I come
To bear good news to every home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say- and sing:</p> | <p>13) Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.</p> |
| <p>14) My heart for very joy doth leap,
My lips no more can silence keep;
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradle-song:</p> | <p>15) Glory to God in highest Heav'n,
Who unto us His Son hath given!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.</p> |

SHORT CHRISTMAS DAY MESSAGE John 1:14 "Soli Deo Gloria - To God Be Glory"



CONFESSION of FAITH The 2nd Article (& Meaning in Luther's Catechism)

C: I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

C: I believe that Jesus Christ is true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, and that He is my Lord, Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; *not* with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, in order that I might be His own, live under Him in His Kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. *This is most certainly true. Amen.*

7TH CAROL *What Child Is This?* NOT IN TLH (ELH #145) GREENSLEEVES

- 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?
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 Christian, fear; for sinners here
The Silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through,
The Cross be bourne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made Flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!



- 3) So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings Salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
THE BABE, THE SON OF MARY!

Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

“When they saw the star,
they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.
And when they had come into the house,
they saw the young Child
with Mary His mother,
and fell down and worshiped Him.
And when they had opened their treasures,
they presented gifts to Him: gold,
frankincense, and myrrh.”



8TH CAROL *Joy to the World* TLH #87 ISAAC WATTS ANTIOCH

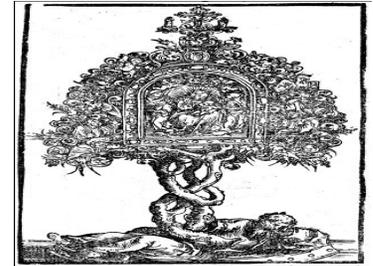
- 1) Joy to the world, the LORD is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And- Heav'n and nature- sing...(3x).
- 2) Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields & floods, rocks, hills & plains
Re-peat the sounding- joy...(3x).
- 3) No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far- as the curse is- found...(3x).
- 4) He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And- wonders of His- Love...A-men

3RD CAROL *O Little Town of Bethlehem* TLH #647 PHILLIP BROOKS

- 1) 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 ever-lasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.
- 2) For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered- all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of- wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy Birth
And praises sing to God, the King,
And peace to men on earth.
- 3) How silently, how silently,
The wondrous- Gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings- of His Heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.
- 4) 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! A-MEN.

Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-9

“There shall come forth a Rod
from the stem of Jesse,
And a Branch shall grow
out of his roots.

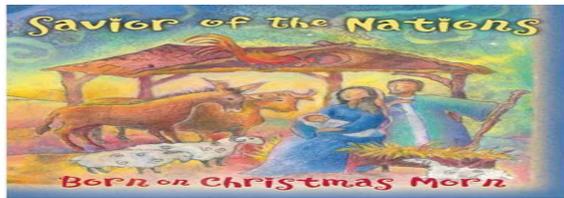


4TH CAROL *Behold, a Branch is Growing* TLH #645 ES IST EIN' ROS'

- 1) Behold a Branch is growing
Of loveliest form and grace,
As prophets sung, foreknowing;
It springs from Jesse's race
And bears one little Flow'r
In midst of coldest winter,
At deepest midnight hour.
- 2) Isaiah hath foretold It
In Words of promise sure,
And Mary's arms enfold It,
A virgin meek and pure.
Through God's eternal Will
This Child to her is given
At midnight calm and still.
- 3) The shepherds heard the story,
Proclaimed by angels bright,
How Christ, the LORD of Glory,
Was born on earth this night.
To Bethlehem they sped
And in the manger found Him,
As angel heralds said.
- 4) This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender
With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendour
The darkness everywhere.
True Man, yet very God;
From sin and death He saves us
And lightens ev'ry load.
- 5) O Savior, Child of Mary - Who felt our human woe;
O Savior, King of Glory, - Who dost our weakness know,
Bring us at length, wee pray - To the bright courts of Heaven
And to the Endless Day. A-men.

Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

"Then the angel said to her,
'Do not be afraid, Mary,
for you have found favour with God.
And behold, you will conceive in your womb
and bring forth a Son,
and shall call His name JESUS.
He will be great, and will be called
the Son of the Highest;
and the LORD God will give Him
the throne of His father David.
And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever,
and of His kingdom there will be no end."

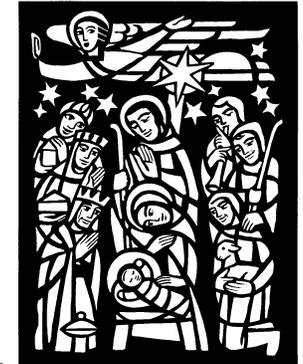


5TH CAROL *Savior of the Nations, Come* TLH #95 MARTIN LUTHER

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|---|---|
| 1) Savior of the na-tions, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Thy home!
Marvel now, O Heav'n and- earth,
That the LORD chose such- a birth. | 2) Not by human flesh- and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made- Flesh
Woman's Offspring, pure- and fresh. |
| 3) Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child
Of the virgin undefiled!
Though by all the world dis- owned,
Still to be in Heav'n- enthroned. | 4) From the Father forth- He came
And returneth to the Same,
Captive leading death and- hell
High the song of tri-umph swell! |
| 5) Thou, the Father's on-ly Son,
Hast o'er sin the Vict'ry won.
Boundless shall Thy Kingdom- be;
When shall we its glor-ies see? | 6) Brightly doth Thy man-ger shine,
Glorious is its Light divine.
Let not sin o'ercloud this- Light;
Ever be our faith- thus bright. |
- 7) PRAISE TO GOD THE FATH-ER SING,
PRAISE TO GOD THE SON, OUR KING,
PRAISE TO GOD THE SPIRIT- BE
EVER AND ETER-NALLY.

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1-14

"And so it was, that, while they were there,
The days were accomplished
That she should be delivered.
And she brought forth her firstborn Son,
and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths,
and laid Him in a manger,
because there was no room for them in the inn."

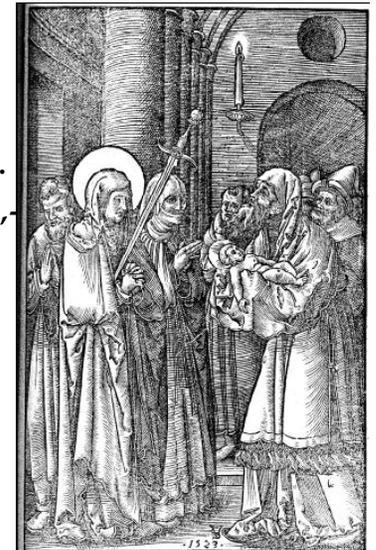


6TH CAROL *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* NOT IN TLH (ELH #87)

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|---|---|
| 1) Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee. | 2) Israel's Strength and Consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart. |
| 3) Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a Child and yet a King;
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring. | 4) By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule Thou in our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne. |

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:21-33

"Sovereign Lord,
as you have promised,
Now let Your servant depart in peace.
For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared
in the sight of all people,
a light for revelation
to the Gentiles
and for glory
to your people Israel."



NINE (Complete) Lessons



First Lesson: Genesis 3:9-18 NIV But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" 10 He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." 11 And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" 12 The man said, "The woman you put here with me - she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." 14 So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." 16 To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." 17 To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. 18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.



Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18 The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time 16 and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, 18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."



Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2,6-7 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. ... 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 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 forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.



Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-9 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. 2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD - 3 and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; 4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. 6 The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. 7 The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. 8 The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. 9 They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.



Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-38 In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The LORD is with you." 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. 31 You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The LORD God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." 34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. 37 For nothing is impossible with God." 38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.



Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1-14 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to his own town to register. 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He

went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. 8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the LORD appeared to them, and the glory of the LORD shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."



Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:21-33 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived. 22 When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the LORD 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), 24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all people, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." 33 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him.



Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." 3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 6 ""But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel."" 7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." 9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.



Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. 6 There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God -- 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

