



Lessons & Carols

December 20th at 5 in the evening
Lessons for Advent

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century and has long been a St Thomas tradition. In this service, we listen to Scripture lessons and each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer.

LIVE ON YOUTUBE

At the Procession

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Hymnal 56



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
2. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - d'rest all things might - i - ly;
3. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Si - nai's height
4. O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from Sa - tan's ty - ra - ny
5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our heav'n - ly home;
6. O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us by thy draw - ing night;
7. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the hearts of all man - kind;
8. O come, O come, Em - man - ue - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,



- 1 that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
- 2 to us the path of know - ledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.
- 3 in an - cient times didst give the law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
- 4 that trust thy might - y power to save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
- 5 make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
- 6 dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and death's dark sha - dows put to flight.
- 7 bid thou our sad di - vi - sions cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
- 8 that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

First Lesson ★ Genesis 3:1-15

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with

her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They 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. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

First Carol [Solo] ★ Adam Lay YBounden

**Text: 15 C., Anonymous
Music: Boris Ord**

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter thought he not too long.

And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,
As clerkes finden written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,
Ne had never our lady a ben heavené queen.

Blessed be the time that apple taken was,
Therefor we moun singen, Deo gracias!

Second Lesson ★ Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I

said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Second Carol

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Hymnal 67



1. Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
 2. Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert far and near,
 3. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er pla - ces plain;



com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load.
 call - ing us to new re - pent - ance since the kin - dom now is here.
 let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign.



Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 let the val - leys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Third Lesson ★ Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out

of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Third Carol [Solo] ★ *Creator of the Stars of Night*

**Text: Latin, 9th Century
Music: *Conditor Alme
Siderum***

Creator of the stars of night, your people’s everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.

In sorrow that the ancient curse should doom to death a universe,
you came, O Savior, to set free your own in glorious liberty.

When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild.

At your great Name, O Jesus, now all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
All things on earth with one accord, like those in heaven, shall call you
Lord.

Come to your holy might, we pray, redeem us for eternal day;
defend us while we dwell below from all assaults of our dread foe.

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally.

Fourth Lesson ★ *Isaiah 35:1-10*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.” Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For

waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Fourth Carol

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Hymnal 65



1. Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!___
2. He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heav'n a - bove. ___
3. Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace. ___



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear. ___
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love. ___
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place. ___



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy ___ a bound - ing.
 All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will ___ a - dore ___ him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came ___ in God's most ho - ly Name. ___

Fifth Lesson ★ Baruch 4:36—5:9

Look toward the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God. Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away; they are coming, gathered from east and west, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God. Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put

on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Fifth Carol [Solo] ★ *Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth*

Text: Ambrose of Milan

Music: *Puer Nobis*

***Nascitur*, arr. M.**

Schweizer

Come, Thou Redeemer of the earth, and manifest Thy virgin birth:
Let every age adoring fall; such birth befits the God of all

Begotten of no human will, but of the Spirit, Thou art still
The Word of God in flesh arrayed, the promised Fruit to us displayed.

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright, and darkness breathe a newer light,
where endless faith shall shine serene, and twilight never intervene.

All praise, eternal Son to Thee; whose Advent sets thy people free,
with whom the Father we adore, and Holy Ghost forevermore.

Sixth Lesson ★ *Isaiah 7:10-15*

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Sixth Carol

Savior of the Nations, Come!

Hymnal 54



1. Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's Son, make here your home.
2. Won - drous birth! Oh, won-drous child of the Vir - gin un - de - filed!
3. Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing his cre - a - ted spheres;
4. Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er sin the vic - tory won.



Mar - vel now, both heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
Might - y God and Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
hence to death and hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
Bound - less shall your king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

Seventh Lesson ★ Micah 5:2-4

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

Seventh Carol [Solo] ★ *Rejoice Greatly, O Daughters of Zion!*

Text: Zechariah 9:9-10

Music: G. F. Handel

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Behold, thy king cometh unto thee.
He is the righteous Saviour,
and he speak peace unto the heathen.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, thy king cometh unto thee.

Concluding Prayers

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last. Amen.

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.



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