





# HUNTERSVILLE LUTHERAN

## *A Changeless Message for A Changing Community*

8000 Mcilwaine Rd Huntersville, NC 28078

Worship 9am | Family Bible Hour 10:30am

[Huntersvillelc.com](http://Huntersvillelc.com) | 248-807-3057 | [pastor@huntersvillelc.com](mailto:pastor@huntersvillelc.com)

**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Our service is centered on our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose from the dead so that we would have eternal life in him. God reveals this soul saving message in his Word. We gather to find strength through God's powerful and holy Word. Take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the order of service, readings, and hymns, and fill out the take action card. May God bless our time together this morning.

### **About Our Worship**

The gospel is the good news about what Jesus did to be the Savior for sinners. It is also the power of God—the very thing he uses to work faith in our hearts and transform our lives. Therefore, gospel-centered worship places the gospel in central focus. This order of service is called the liturgy. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Gospel-centered worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children).

### **For Your Convenience**

**Restrooms** are located in through the doors at the rear of the building. Simply follow the arrows once you are in the hallway.

**Cry Room** | If you little one needs some room to wiggle, there is a cry room located in the back of the sanctuary.

### **Service Participants**

Rev. Doug Van Sice, *pastor of Huntersville Lutheran*

Mrs. Michelle Fouts, *pianist*

Mr. Ted Gepner, *soloist*

Mrs. Ramona Gepner, *soloist*

James Rickman, *crucifer*

Addison Schubring, *Torch Bearer*

Victoria Schubring, *Torch Bearer*

Casey Vogt, *Gospel Bearer*

# SERVICE NOTES



For over a thousand years the Christian world has marked the passing of time from the year of Jesus' birth. Recognizing his coming into the world as the central event in the story of human kind, Christians count the years before his birth as B.C. (Before Christ) and the years after his birth as A.D. (Anno Domini, In the Year of Our Lord).

Our worship this morning is an adaptation of "The Festival of Lessons and Carols" service traditionally held at King's College, Cambridge, England, on December 24<sup>th</sup> every year. This Festival was first held on Christmas Eve, 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's College after experience as

an army chaplain. A Revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons. In almost every year some carols have been changed and some new ones introduced by successive organists. However, the backbone of the service, the lessons and the prayers, has remained virtually unchanged for over 100 years.

## A Prayer Upon Entering Worship

Almighty God, you dealt wonderfully with your servant Mary in choosing her to be the mother of your dearly beloved Son and thus graciously made known your regard for the poor and lowly and despised. Grant us grace in all humility and meekness to receive your Word with hearty faith and to rejoice in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen. (Martin Luther)

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God."

~Colossians 3:16~



# ORDER OF SERVICE

---

*At the invitation of the presiding minister, please stand and face the entry of the sanctuary.*

## PROCESSIONAL CAROL

*Once in Royal David's City*

*Christian Worship 343, vv1-3*

Cecil Frances Alexander wrote "Once in Royal David's City" as a way for her grandchildren to review the catechism. The original version had many stanzas which recalled the Ten Commandments. The verses that are commonly known today echo some thoughts of the Apostle's Creed. The tune IRBY was composed by Henry J. Gauntlett in 1849 as four-part setting for children. "Once in Royal David's City" became popular to a large extent from its use as the opening hymn for the annual service of Lessons and Carols held at Kings College in Cambridge, England. It is customary that the first stanza is sung by a member of the boys choir.

*Stanza One by Soloist*

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly  
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and  
3 And our eyes at last shall see him through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a  
Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his  
deem-ing love, for that child, so dear and gen - tle, is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er  
cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and mean and  
Lord in heav'n a - bove, and he leads his chil - dren

mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
on to the place where he is gone.

## INVOCATION

- In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- Amen.

## EXHORTATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

- Dear people of God, in this Christmas season, it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the lord has made known to us—the Christ Child lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy child.

But first, let us pray for people all over the world who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ and who would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of Charlotte and for all those in our own congregation.

And, because this would please our Lord, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, those who do not love him, and those who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God.

To sum up all these petitions, let us pray as Christ himself taught us.

- Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.**  
Amen.

# NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

## FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:18-15

*The First Promise of a Savior*  
Read by Mr. Jake Gepner

<sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

<sup>10</sup> He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." <sup>11</sup> And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup> So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,

"Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> 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."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

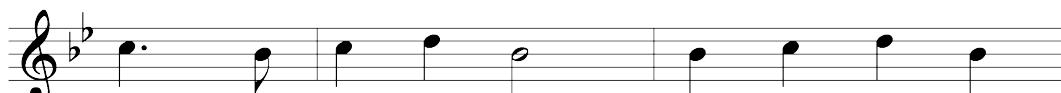
## CAROL

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

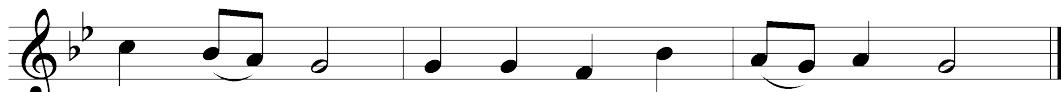
*Christian Worship #301, vv1, 3, 4*



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's  
3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child of the  
4 From the Fa - ther's throne he came and as -



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O  
vir - gin un - de - filed, though by all the  
cend - ed to the same, cap - tive lead - ing



heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
world dis - owned, yet to be in heav'n en - throned!  
death and hell. High the song of tri - umph swell!

## SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

*God's Promises to Abraham*

*Read by Mr. Chris Murphy*

<sup>15</sup> The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time <sup>16</sup> and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> 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,<sup>18</sup> and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

## CAROL

*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

*Christian Worship #331, vv1-3*



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come to bear good  
2 "To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,  
3 "This is the Christ, our God most high, who hears your

news to ev - 'ry home; glad ti - dings of great  
cho - sen vir - gin mild; this lit - tle child of  
sad and bit - ter cry; he will him - self your

joy I bring, where - of I now will say and sing:  
low - ly birth shall be the joy of all the earth.  
Sav - ior be from all your sins to set you free.

## THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

*The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.  
Read by Mr. Jacob Rickman*

<sup>2</sup>The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.

<sup>3</sup>You have enlarged the nation  
and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice  
when dividing the plunder.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>Every warrior's boot used in battle  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be destined for burning,  
will be fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>Of the greatness 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.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

## CAROL

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Christian Worship #350

Charles Wesley was the younger brother of Anglican clergyman, John Wesley. Whereas John stuck largely to theology (and is generally credited as being the founder of the Methodist movement), Charles stuck primarily to hymn writing. He penned "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing", which was first printed in *Hymns and Sacred Poems* in 1739. It quickly became extremely popular. The tune associated with "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" is titled MENDELSSOHN. It comes from the second chorus of Felix Mendelssohn's "Festgasang an die Künstler," written in 1840 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Johannes Gutenberg's invention of movable type. Mendelssohn did not think the tune appropriate for a sacred text. He wrote that it was too "soldier-like" to convey Scriptural truth. Nevertheless, in 1855 Dr. William H. Cummings adapted the tune MENDELSSOHN to fit Wesley's text. The result is arguably the most popular Christmas hymn of all time.



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 - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right-eous-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 ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

*Refrain*



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

## FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

*A Branch from the stump of Jesse will bear fruit.*

*Read by Mr. Ted Gepner*

<sup>1</sup> A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.<sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—<sup>3</sup> 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; <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. <sup>9</sup> They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

## CAROL

*Behold, a Branch is Growing*

*Christian Worship #360, vv1-2*

1 Be - hold, a branch is grow - ing of love - liest form and  
2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it in words of prom - ise

grace! As proph - ets sang, fore - know - ing, it springs from Jes - se's  
sure, and Mar - y's arms en - fold it, a vir - gin meek and

race and now be - gins to flow'r in midst of  
pure. Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to

cold - est win - ter, at deep - est mid - night hour.  
her is giv - en at mid - night calm and still.

## FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

*The angel Gabriel announces to Mary the birth of a son*

*Read by Mr. John Lemke,*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup>Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup>"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on 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.

<sup>38</sup>"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

## CAROL

### *The Annunciation & Magnificat*

*Text and Setting: Marty Haugen*

*Sung by Soloists*

The Annunciation (Luke 1:26-28, 30-32, 28)

1. An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."

The Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)

- 1, 3. My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you, You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through. Great and mighty are you, O Holy One, strong is your kindness evermore. How you favor the weak and lowly one, humbling the proud of heart.
2. You have cast the mighty down from their thrones, and uplifted the humble of heart, You have filled the hungry with wondrous things, and left the wealthy no part. Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One, strong is your justice, strong your love, As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, Kindness forever more.

## SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

*St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus*

*Read by Mr. Ron Pile,*

*Elder of Huntersville Lutheran*

<sup>1</sup> In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup> (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup> and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

□ The Gospel of the Lord.

■ Praise be to you, O Christ!

## CAROL

*Away in a Manger*

*Christian Worship #341*

*Stanza one sung by the Sunday School Choir*

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay  
  
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.  
  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,  
  
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.  
and take us to heav - en to live with you there.

## SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

*The shepherds go to the manger  
Read by Mr. Dan Highdale,  
Secretary of Huntersville Lutheran*

<sup>8</sup> And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.<sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

**L** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise be to you, O Christ!**



# CAROL

## Angels We Have Heard on High

Christian Worship #346



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;



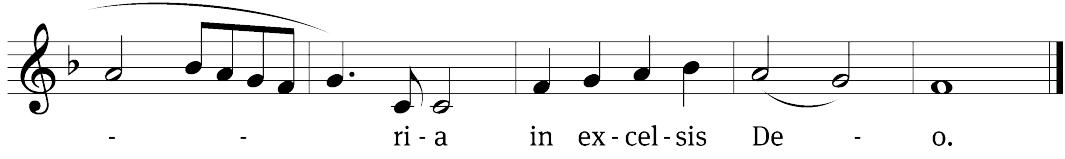
and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - - ri - a



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



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

## EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

*Magi worship the newborn King*

*Read by Mr. Nate Vogt,*

*President of Huntersville Lutheran.*

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.<sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup> “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 shepherd my people Israel.”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> 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, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

**L** The gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise be to you, O Christ!



## CAROL

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

*Christian Worship #347, vvl, 3*



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your  
3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er

flight o'er all the earth; once you sang cre -  
vi - sions beam a - far; seek the great de -

a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
sire of na - tions, you have seen the Sav - ior's star.

*Refrain*

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship,  
wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

## THANKSGIVING

**Offering** | *The members of Huntersville Lutheran have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you would like to give digitally, simply scan the QR code to the right. You can also give your offering in HLC's App. Guests, you are welcome to participate in supporting our ministry, but certainly do not feel obligated.*



**Connect Card** | *In your service folder, you will find connect cards. If you haven't done so already, please take a moment and fill it out completely to give us a record of your attendance. In addition, you may request prayers be said on your behalf today. Place your connect card in the offering plate on your way out the door this morning.*



# THE SACRAMENT

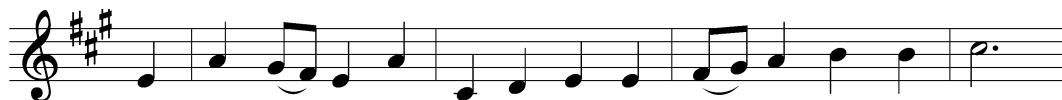
*Huntersville Lutheran practices close communion, which means biblical conversation and confession with our church beforehand. It is our desire to share in the eternal blessings of this Sacrament according to the instructions that God himself gives. If you are new to Huntersville Lutheran, please know that many of those around you were at one time new, too. And, as you can see by their presence, this preliminary discussion has only brought us closer together to celebrate the Lord's Supper in the way he has prescribed. Contact our pastor at any time.*

## PREFACE

- L** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- L** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them up to the Lord.
- L** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.
- L** It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whose wonderful and mysterious birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and host of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*Sanctus*



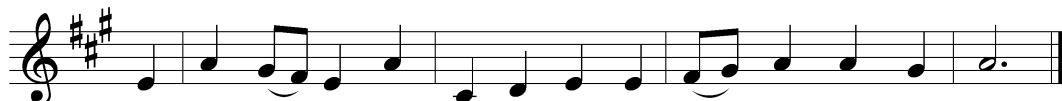
1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,  
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,



your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."  
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!



Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:  
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!



in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.  
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

□ We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

■ Amen.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**L** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**c** Amen.

## JESUS, LAMB OF GOD

*Agnus Dei*

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

## DISTRIBUTION

## PRAYER AND BLESSING

The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

O God who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ, grant that as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, so may we with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our judge, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

May he who by his incarnation gathers things earthly and heavenly into one fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and remain with you always.

**C** Amen.

## NINTH LESSON

*John 1:1-14*

*St. John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation.*

*Read by Rev. Douglas Van Sice,  
Pastor of Huntersville Lutheran*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—<sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

<sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise be to you, O Christ!

## CAROL

## Joy to the World

Christian Worship #353, vv1, 2, 4

Surprisingly, this hymn was not written for Christmas. Rather, Isaac Watts wrote the hymn as a paraphrase of the last five verses in Psalm 98 for his 1719 publication, *The Psalms of David Imitated*. In this hymnal, Watts rewrites many of the psalms using a Christological lens. His versification of Psalm 98 is no different. Verse nine of the psalm reads, "...let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity." Watts unapologetically interprets this as a reference to Christ. The theme of "Christ coming" made it an apt hymn to be sung at Christmas time, and it has since become one of the most beloved Christmas carols. This is one of the most joyous Christmas hymns in existence; not in the sense of merry-making but in the deep and solemn realization of what Christ's birth has meant to mankind.



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

**Thank You** | You could have chosen to be anywhere this morning and you chose to spend it here, so thank you. To our guests and visitors this morning, we pray your time with us has been enjoyable. If you have any questions, feel free to speak with any of our members or pastor after the service.

**Want to Learn More?** | Aside from worship, one of the best ways to learn more about Scripture and Huntersville Lutheran teaches is to join a Faithbuilders class. Faithbuilders is a class on the basics of Christianity and is our path to membership at HLC. Whether you are brand new to Christianity or a life-long believer, this class is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen your faith and grow in your relationship with your Savior. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please contact Pastor ([pastor@huntersvillelc.com](mailto:pastor@huntersvillelc.com)).

**Christmas Worship Schedule** | Mark your calendars for the following Christmas Worship Opportunities at HLC:

• Wed., December 24 <sup>th</sup> , 6:00pm	Festival of the Nativity—Candlelight Service
• Thurs., December 25 <sup>th</sup> , 10:00am	Festival of the Incarnation—Brunch to Follow
• Sunday, December 28 <sup>th</sup> , 9:00am	First Sunday after Christmas
• Sunday, January 4 <sup>th</sup> , 9:00am	Second Sunday after Christmas
• Sunday, January 11 <sup>th</sup> , 9:00am	Festival of the Epiphany of Our Lord

## Acknowledgments

Printed with Permission Under OneLicense No 729238

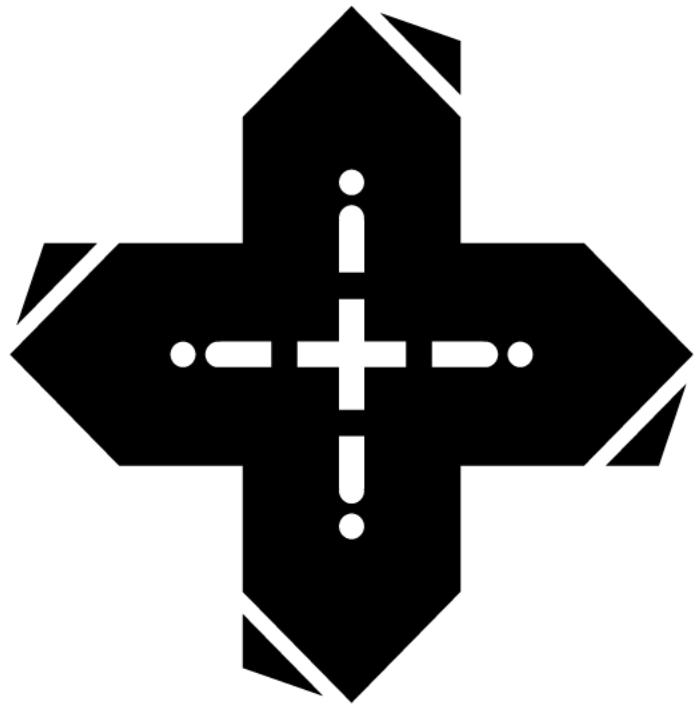
A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.



# HUNTERSVILLE

*Lutheran Church*