

Lessons And Carols 2012

Prelude:

Opening: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Prayer: Let us pray

All: Almighty God, grant that we who are enlightened by the new light of your Incarnate Word may show in our deeds the light that by faith shines in our hearts. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

“O come all ye faithful” and “Joy to the world.”

Our selection of readings focus on fulfilment and prophecy

Reading 1: An Angel Comes To Mary

Luke 1:26-38, ²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!" ²⁹ But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was.

³⁰ Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² "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. ³³ "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" ³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "*The Holy Spirit* will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

³⁶ "Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. ³⁷ "For with God nothing will be impossible." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Examples of Old Testament Prophecies fulfilled in this Reading.

1. The virgin would have a Son, Jesus is true Man.

Isaiah 7:14, ¹⁴ “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

2. Jesus is sinless.

Isaiah 53:9, ⁹ ...Nor *was any* deceit in His mouth.

3. Jesus is true God

Isaiah 9:6, ⁶ 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.

4. Jesus would have the throne of His father David, and His kingdom will last forever

2 Samuel 7:11-13, 16-17, Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house. ¹² When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ “He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. .. ¹⁶ “And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.” ¹⁷ According to all these words and according to all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

“Hark the herald angels sing” and “Away in a manger”

Reading 2:

An Angel Comes To Joseph

Matthew 1:18-24, ¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

²⁰ But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹ “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

²² So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³ “*Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,*” which is translated, “*God with us.*” ²⁴ Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife,

Examples of Old Testament Prophecies fulfilled in this Reading.

1. Jesus is true God.

Isaiah 7:14, ¹⁴ “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

2. Jesus is our Saviour,

There are many prophecies in the Old Testament telling us about Jesus being our Saviour which includes His birth, His work as our Prophet, Priest and King, suffering, and dying for our sins.

The very first one is:

Genesis 3:15 ¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

Daniel 7:14 ¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom *the one* Which shall not be destroyed.

Psalms 110:4, “You *are* a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”

3. Jesus was born from the line of David, which goes back to Abraham. Both Mary and Joseph were descendents of David. God said to Abraham:

Genesis 22:18, ¹⁸ “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.”

“*O Thou Holiest*” and “*Come Hither Ye Children*”

Reading 3: Jesus is born

There were 61 generations from Adam to Christ.

This is made up of 19 generations from Adam to Abraham, and 42 generations from Abraham to Christ.

Matthew 1:17, ¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon *are* fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ *are* fourteen generations.

Luke 2:1-7, ¹ And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³ So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. ⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. ⁶ So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. ⁷ 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.

John 1:14-17, ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’” ¹⁶ And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Examples of Old Testament Prophecies fulfilled in this Reading.

1. Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Micah 5:2, ² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *Yet* out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth *are* from of old, From everlasting.”

2. Jesus was born as a tender plant. In other words in lowliness, in a manger not in a king's palace.

Isaiah 53:2 ² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, *There is* no beauty that we should desire Him.

“O Christmas Tree” and “O little one sweet”

Reading 4:

The Wise Men

Matthew 2:1-23, ¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” ³ When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

⁵ So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: ⁶ ‘But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ “

⁷ Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.”

⁹ When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy.

¹¹ 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. ¹² Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

Examples of Old Testament Prophecies fulfilled in this Reading.

- 1. The Messiah came, not only to save the Jews but also the Gentiles.
In other words all people, all nations.**

Isaiah 49:6, I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.’ “

Isaiah 60:3-5, ³ The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴ “Lift up your eyes all around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; Your sons shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at *your* side. ⁵ Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.

Genesis 12:3, ³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Genesis 22:18, ¹⁸ “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.

Psalms 22:27, ²⁷ All the ends of the world Shall remember and turn to the LORD, And all the families of the nations Shall worship before You.

“We three kings.”

Prayer:

The Lord's Prayer:

All. **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 Blessing:

Christ the Son of God give us joy and peace by His presence with us;
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you always.

C: Amen.

“Silent Night”