

FIRST LESSON FROM GENESIS 3: 8–15; 17–19

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

SECOND LESSON FROM GENESIS 22: 15–18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

THIRD LESSON FROM ISAIAH 9: 2; 6–7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour.

FOURTH LESSON FROM ISAIAH 11: 1–3A; 4A; 6–9

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

FIFTH LESSON FROM LUKE 1: 26–35; 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

SIXTH LESSON FROM LUKE 2: 1; 3–7

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

SEVENTH LESSON FROM LUKE 2: 8–16

The shepherds go to the manger.

EIGHTH LESSON FROM MATTHEW 2: 1–12

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

NINTH LESSON FROM JOHN 1: 1–14

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

HYMN #283 "O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL"

The First Lesson

GENESIS 3: 8–15; 17–19

The man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they 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." And to the man he said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, You shall not eat of it', cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face, you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

The Second Lesson

GENESIS 22:15-18

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

HYMN #286 "YOUR LITTLE ONES, DEAR LORD"



The Third Lesson

ISAIAH 9: 2; 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

HYMN #281 'SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT!'

The Fourth Lesson

ISAIAH 11: 1–3A; 4A; 6–9

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

HYMN #276 “INFANT HOLY, INFANT LOWLY”

The Fifth Lesson

LUKE 1: 26–35; 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he

will be called Son of God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

HYMN #296 "WHAT CHILD IS THIS"

The Sixth Lesson

LUKE 2: 1; 3-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

HYMN #279 "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"

The Seventh Lesson

LUKE 2: 8-16

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

The Eighth Lesson

MATTHEW 2: 1-12

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

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

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

HYMN #300 “THE FIRST NOEL”



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

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

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

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

CONFESSION OF FAITH: NICENE CREED

L: Living in the Hope of the Gift of Christ's coming again, we confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

(Each petition ends: P: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.

L: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

L: Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being.

For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

L: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

L: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

L: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

BLESSING

L: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ✠ bless you with endless grace, peace and joy.

C: Amen.

HYMN #267 "JOY TO THE WORLD"

DISMISSAL

L: Glory to God in the highest!

C: And peace to God's people on earth!

L: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

C: Thanks be to God.

RINGING OF THE BELL

POSTLUDE

Contact Information

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Prayers of Intercession

Each Sunday when we gather for worship we have time of intercessory prayer. While this is an important part of our worship, we may not always know why we do it or what it means. Our prayers of intercession are, in short, asking God to be God to act in this world as God has promised us God will move and act in the world. These prayers are meant to be timely to current happenings at local, national, and global levels.

The Worship Committee and Pastor Leah have heard the request for members of our parish to offer up their own intercessions. This certainly fits in line with the meaning behind our prayers of intercession, because while we try to address the many things happening in our lives and world, we certainly cannot perfectly address them all. Here is how Worship Committee and Pastor Leah plan to honor this request...

- 1) Please submit in writing your prayer petition to Pastor Leah by the Wednesday preceding the upcoming Sunday.
- 2) Please be brief. 1-3 sentences will suffice.
- 3) Pastor Leah may edit or reject your petition. We are a parish filled with people of diverse opinions and experiences, and we hope our prayers reflect this reality. Pastor Leah will communicate any suggested edits, and the petition will not be prayed without full agreement from the writer and Pastor Leah.
- 4) We will start asking for petitions from members in January, with plans to include them in the prayers of intercession in February.
- 5) Honoring deaths within and connected to our community will still be prayed in the final petition where we give thanks to God for all those saints who have died.

The Worship Committee and Pastor Leah appreciate hearing from our parish on ways to enhance our communal worship life together. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to Pastor Leah or a member of the Worship Committee.

Pastor Leah and the Worship Committee

Faith: Terri Boussetot, Brittany Hoffmann, Andrea Shelton

Our Savior's: Dan Burke, Jason Boussetot, Deb Detlefs, Linda Whitman