

# Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols



**St. Paul's Episcopal Parish**



## ***Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Parish.***

*Gathering together, worshipping God,  
sharing the journey since 1851.*

*The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a unique service, dating back well over 100 years to England. We gather together to hear and to share our ancient faith journey through scripture and hymnody. May this service add richness to your Advent and Christmas.*

Shawn Dickerson, Parish Rector

***The church bell rings at 8:55 am,  
followed by gathering music.***

## **Welcome to St. Paul's Parish!**



**Welcome, Announcements,  
Birthdays & Anniversaries**

## **Prelude**

### **Opening Hymn**

*Blue Hymnal* **102**

*Soloist:* Verse 1

**All: Verses 2 - 6**

### **A Bidding Prayer**

Dear People of God: In this 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.

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

But first, we pray for the needs of God's whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which Christ died, and especially for the Church in our country and this community.

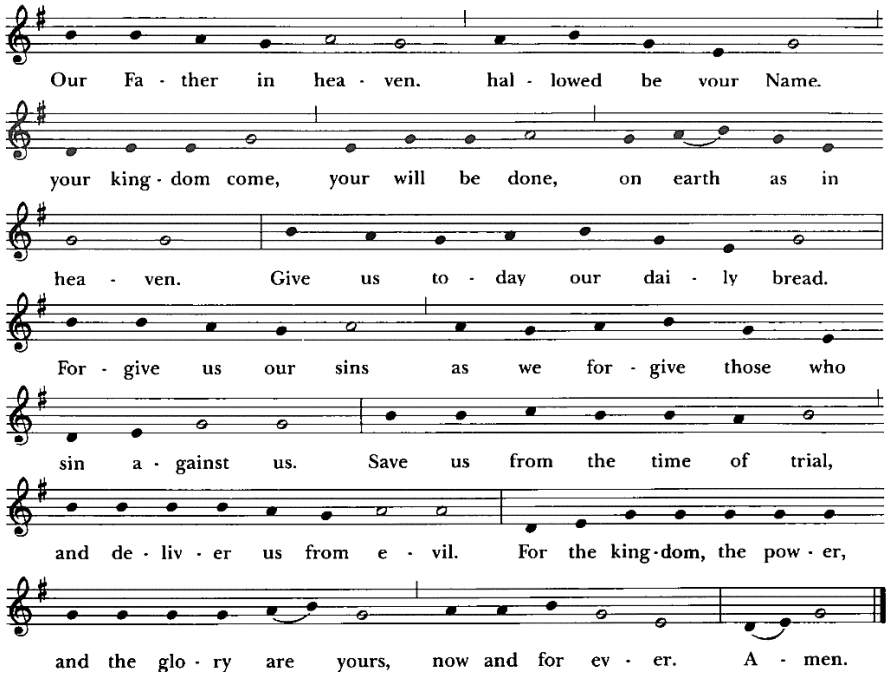
And because Christ particularly loves them, we remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, we remember before God, Christ's 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, we pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, singing:

# Blue Hymnal

S-149



Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be vour Name.  
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in  
hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.  
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who  
sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial,  
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er,  
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

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

## The First Reading

Genesis 3:8-15

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.'

*A period of silence.*

***Hymn after the First Reading***

## The Second Reading

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 for ever.

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.

*A period of silence.*

### ***Hymn after the Second Reading***

#### **The Third Reading**

#### **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.

*A period of silence.*

### ***Hymn after the Third Reading***

## The Fourth Reading

Baruch 4:36-5:9

Look towards 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 for ever 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 splendour  
everywhere under heaven.  
For God will give you evermore the name,  
'Righteous Peace, Godly Glory'.  
Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;  
look towards 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.

*A period of silence.*

***Hymn after the Fourth Reading***



## The Fifth Reading

Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stock 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.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
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.

*A period of silence.*

### **Hymn after the Fifth Reading**

*An offering will be taken during this hymn.*

## **The Sixth Reading**

**Zephaniah 3:14-18**

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord has taken away the judgements against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing  
as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

*A period of silence.*

## ***Hymn after the Sixth Reading***

## The Seventh Reading

Isaiah 65:17-25

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be remembered or come to  
mind.

But be glad and rejoice for ever in what I am creating;  
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,  
and its people as a delight.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people;  
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,  
or the cry of distress.

No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a  
few days, or an old person who does not live out a  
lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be  
considered a youth, and one who falls short of a  
hundred will be considered accursed.

They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

They shall not build and another inhabit;  
they shall not plant and another eat;  
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people  
be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their  
hands.

They shall not labour in vain, or bear children for  
calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by  
the Lord— and their descendants as well.

Before they call I will answer,  
while they are yet speaking I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,  
the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its  
food shall be dust!

They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain,  
says the Lord.

*A period of silence.*

***Hymn after the Seventh Reading***

## The Eighth Reading

Luke 1:26-56

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, favoured 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 favour 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 for ever, 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. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with 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.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among

women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of  
his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call  
me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of  
their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their  
thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

And Mary remained with her for about three months  
and then returned to her home.

*A period of silence.*

## Hymn after the Eighth Reading

### Mary's Song / Magnificat



1. My soul doth glo - ry in your love, O Lord.
2. Great are you, God, and ho - ly is your name.
3. Ah, how you fill the hun - gry with your love.
4. My soul doth glo - ry in your love, O Lord.



1. My soul doth glo - ry in your love, O Lord. For you
2. Your mer - cy reach - es to the end of time. Ah, the
3. With emp - ty hands the rich are sent a - way. You will
4. My soul doth glo - ry in your love, O Lord. For you



1. gazed on your ser - vant with com - pas - sion, And you
2. low - ly you raise — to the heav - ens, And the
3. al - ways be mind - ful of your mer - cy, As you
4. smiled on your ser - vant with com - pas - sion, And you



1. reached out and took me by the hand.
2. proud - heart - ed have no part with you.
3. prom - ised your peo - ple long a - go.
4. reached out and took me by the hand.

Text: Based on Luke 1:46–55. Text and music © 1977, Mildred F. Rieth.  
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## Final Collect

## Blessing

## Dismissal

*Presider:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

## Coffee & Fellowship

*All are invited to gather in the Parish Hall following this worship service for coffee and fellowship.*

### Liturgical Notes

- This service is from The Book of Occasional Services.
- Today's lessons are read without announcement or conclusion.
- A sermon is not a traditional part of this service.
- One license #718976
- This service is streamed live and recorded on our YouTube channel. To view, begin at our website [www.stpauloregoncity.org](http://www.stpauloregoncity.org) and click the link to our YouTube channel.



## **St. Paul's Episcopal Parish**

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***Gathering together, worshiping God,  
sharing the journey since 1851.***