

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Lessons and Carols Holy Eucharist-Rite II

December 15, 2024

The Right Rev. Bonnie A Perry
The Eleventh Bishop
of the
Diocese of Michigan

The Rev. Chip Dischinger
Rector
734-699-3361
chip@trinitybell.org

Trinity Episcopal Church
11575 Belleville Rd.
Belleville MI 48111
www.trinitybell.org
www.facebook.com/TrinityBell
office@trinitybell.org
734.699.3361

Please observe silence in the sanctuary before the service begins.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first celebrated at King's College, Cambridge on Christmas Eve, 1918. It was an adaptation of a similar service that had been written for the cathedral at Truro in 1880. The lessons were reordered in 1919 and we have preserved that order, but modified them down to seven. At King's College, the Festival is a Christmas Eve service, and the lessons, and music, move deliberately from the season of Advent into Christmastide.

PRELUDE “My Lord, He Is A-comin’ Soon” by Jeff Cathran Sung by the Trinity Choir

PROCESSIONAL ANTHEM “Once in Royal David’s City” (vs. 1 & 2)

The Hymnal 1982, #102

Sung by the Trinity Choir and Congregation

Verse 1

Once in royal David’s city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed;
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child

Verse 2

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25

Reader: A reading from Genesis

Reader Anna Hill

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Then the LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

'This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken.'

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

Reader: Here ends the reading.

The First Carol "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" The Hymnal 1982, #67
Sung by the Trinity Choir

THE SECOND LESSON

Genesis 1:1-15

Reader: A reading from Genesis

Reader Cheri Van Gelder, Trinity Chorister

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, 'Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.' And it was so.

Reader: Here ends the reading.

The Second Carol "Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers", The Hymnal 1982, #68
Sung by the Trinity Choir

THE THIRD LESSON

Zephaniah 3:14-18

Reader: A reading from Zephaniah Reader Jenifer Dapsi-Morse, Choir Director, Trinity Choir

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.

Reader: Here ends the reading.

The Third Carol

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”, The Hymnal 1982, #66
Sung by the Trinity Choir and Congregation

THE FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10

Reader: A reading from Isaiah

Reader Barb Smith, Altar Guild

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 traveller, 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.

Reader: Here ends the reading.

The Fourth Carol “Once He Came in Blessing”, The Hymnal 1982, #53
Sung by the Trinity Choir

THE FIFTH LESSON

Isaiah 65:17-25

Reader: A reading from Isaiah

Reader Nancy Copeland, Vestry Member

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.

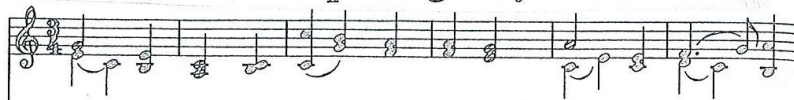
Reader: Here ends the reading.

The Fifth Carol “Gracious Spirit, Give Your Servants”

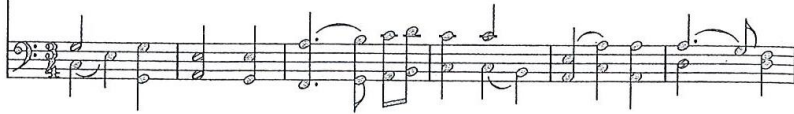
Wonder Love and Praise (WLP), #782

Sung by the Trinity Choir and Congregation

Gracious Spirit, give your servants



1. Gra - cious Spir - it, give your ser - vants joy to set sin's
2. Word made flesh, who gave up glo - ry to be - come our
3. Lov - ing God, who birthed cre - a - tion from the noth - ing -
4. Tri - une God, e - ter - nal Be - ing, nev - er end - ing,



cap - tives free, hope to heal the bro - ken - heart - ed,
 great high priest, tak - ing on our hu - man na - ture
 ness of space, kin - dling life where all was emp - ty,
 un - be - gun, bound - less grace and per - fect jus - tice,



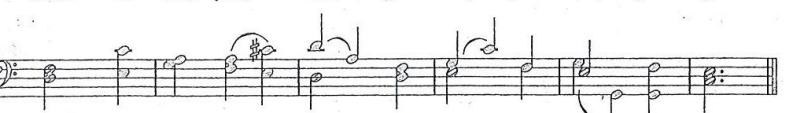
peace to share love's li - ber - ty. Through us bring your balm of
 to re - deem the last and least: let your cour - age and com -
 turn - ing cha - os in - to grace: when we feel con - fused and
 right - eous and for - giv - ing One: so en - fold us in your



glad - ness to the wound - ed and op - pressed; help us claim and
 pas - sion shape and guide our min - is - tries; as our Sav - ior
 fruit - less, dawn up - on our rest - less night; give us faith's im -
 mer - cy that our wills and yours u - nite; through us may the



show God's fa - vor as a peo - ple called and blessed.
 and our Shep - herd, lead us to the truth that frees.
 ag - i - na - tion, hope's re - new - ing, love's de - light.
 world be - hold you, find your love, your truth, your light.



Advent meets us in the long nights.
The darkness comes quicker now.
The days growing shorter, the nights longer.
We're waiting for the light to come.

Open our eyes to see you in the darkness;
The darkness of our souls, hearts, and minds.
Open our spirits so that we may learn from the restlessness.
Help us to lean into our doubts and fears.
Lead us to the light
Be our guide into its mystery.

Help us to sit in your Word
To meet our neighbors
To feast with family and friends
To light candles
To sing hymns
To love deeper
To welcome the stranger
Lead us to the light.

We're waiting to hear you, Lord.
A soft whisper
A gentle touch
A hopeful spirit
Coming to meet us.
Lead us to the light.

We're waiting to see you, Lord.
In the awe of a mother and father
In the chorus of angels
In the greetings of shepherds and kings
In the cry of a baby
Waiting to be born.

Come, wait in us

*A Prayer for the Beginning of Advent is by The Rev. Kimberly Knowle-Zeller, an ordained Lutheran pastor. Her website is:
<http://kimberlyknowlezeller.com>*

The Sixth Carol “On Jordan’s Bank” The Hymnal 1982,#76 Sung by the
Trinity Choir and Congregation

THE SIXTH LESSON

Luke 3:7-18

The Rev. Chip Dischinger

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.’

And the crowds asked him, ‘What then should we do?’ In reply he said to them, ‘Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.’ Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.’ Soldiers also asked him, ‘And we, what should we do?’ He said to them, ‘Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.’

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, ‘I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.’

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

SERMON

Rev. Chip Dischinger

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

DOXOLOGY

The Hymnal 1982 #390, vs. 4

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again;
Gladly forever adore him.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Eucharistic Prayer B

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 367

Please stand as able.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

The Hymnal 1982, S129

The Holy Eucharist II
Holy, holy, holy Lord *Sanctus*

S 129

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. _____

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command,

Presider and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Presider continues.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

**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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.
A period of silence is kept.*

FRACTION ANTHEM

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. S157
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us,
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us,
Grant us thy peace.

THE INVITATION

COMMUNION HYMNS

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” The Hymnal 1982, #89
“O Little Town of Bethlehem” The Hymnal 1982 #79

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Book of Common Prayer, p. 366

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant blesses the people.

Soon and Very Soon

1. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King, —
 2. No more cry - in' there — we are goin' to see the King, —
 3. No more dy - in' there — we are goin' to see the King, —
 4. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King, —

1. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King, —
 2. No more cry - in' there — we are goin' to see the King, —
 3. No more dy - in' there — we are goin' to see the King, —
 4. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King, —

1. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King,
 2. No more cry - in' there — we are goin' to see the King,
 3. No more dy - in' there — we are goin' to see the King,
 4. Soon and ver - y soon — we are goin' to see the King,

Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, — we're goin' to see the King!

Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu -

jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.

DISMISSAL

The Celebrant dismisses the congregation.

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the spirit.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

The candles are extinguished.

The service ends.