

An Advent Festival of Lessons, Carols, and Pageantry | 2025

Saint Egbert School and Parish Music Ministry

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1 An Advent Festival of Lessons, Carols, and Pageantry | 2025

2 Introit

2.0.1 Prelude

2.0.1.1 Maranatha, Lord Messiah Kathy Powell

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQQjF8pTBV4>

Adult choir before service starts?

2.0.2 Processionals

2.0.2.1 Children's entrance: Once In Royal David's City IRBY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmspXB6IUeg>

Children process in reverently starting with verse 2.

- Choristers process down middle aisle, turn left, and process to choir area.
- Pageant performers process down middle aisle and into front pews (or wherever they will be seated.)

Try to make this procession slow and reverent as the hymn is sung.

- Verse 1: Student solo(?) *a capella*
- Verse 2: Adult choir *a capella*
- Verse 3: Combined choirs with organ
- Verse 4: Children's choir with organ
- Verse 5: Combined choirs with congregation and descant(?) with full organ

2.0.2.2 Lectors, presider: O Come, Divine Messiah VENEZ, DIVIN MESSIE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v1hCHbiEOuY>

Book bearer and Presider (others?) process as usual.

Choirs and congregation sing full hymn. Accompanied on piano and/or organ.

3 First Lesson

The Fall of Man Genesis 3:9-15, 20

3.1 Lesson

A reading from the Book of Genesis:

The LORD God called to the man and asked him: Where are you? He answered, “I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid.” Then God asked: Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat? The man replied, “The woman whom you put here with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, so I ate it.” The LORD God then asked the woman: What is this you have done? The woman answered, “The snake tricked me, so I ate it.”

Then the LORD God said to the snake:

Because you have done this,
cursed are you
among all the animals, tame or wild;
On your belly you shall crawl,
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; They will strike at your head, while you strike at their heel.

The man gave his wife the name “Eve,” because she was the mother of all the living.

3.2 Carol

3.2.0.1 Night of Silence / Silent Night Daniel Kantor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMVgMmj2Sio>

Arrangement options: - Adults sing “Night of Silence”, kids hum (ooo’s) “Silent Night” under last verse - Combination like in recording

3.3 Prayer

Lord of mercy,
despite our sinfulness,
you never stopped loving us.
Fill our hearts with your mercy,
that we may forgive others.
Amen.

4 Second Lesson

Promise of Salvation

4.0.1 Lesson Jeremiah 23:5-8

See, days are coming—oracle of the LORD— when I will raise up a righteous branch for David; As king he shall reign and govern wisely, he shall do what is just and right in the land.

In his days Judah shall be saved, Israel shall dwell in security. This is the name to be given him: “The LORD our justice.”

Therefore, the days are coming—oracle of the LORD—when they shall no longer say, “As the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites out of the land of Egypt”; but rather, “As the LORD lives, who brought the descendants of the house of Israel up from the land of the north”—and from all the lands to which I banished them; they shall again live on their own soil.

4.0.2 Carol

4.0.3 Prayer

5 Third Lesson

Davidic King Isaiah 11:1-10

5.1 Lesson

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah:

A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,
and from his roots a bud shall blossom.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him:
a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
A spirit of counsel and of strength,
a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD,
and his delight shall be the fear of the LORD.
Not by appearance shall he judge,
nor by hearsay shall he decide,

But he shall judge the poor with justice,
and decide fairly for the land's afflicted.
He shall strike the ruthless with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked.

Justice shall be the band around his waist,
and faithfulness a belt upon his hips.

Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat;
The calf and the young lion shall browse together,
with a little child to guide them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
together their young shall lie down;
the lion shall eat hay like the ox.

The baby shall play by the viper's den,
and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair.

They shall not harm or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD,
as water covers the sea.

On that day,
The root of Jesse,
set up as a signal for the peoples—
Him the nations will seek out;
his dwelling shall be glorious.

5.2 Carol

5.2.0.1 People, Look East BESANÇON

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YGjPQ5yitcM>

5.3 Prayer

Lord,
we wait for the day of your peace.
May we help to bring this peace
in our families, our communities, and our world.
Amen.

6 Fourth Lesson

The Announcement of the Birth of Jesus Luke 1:26-38

6.1 Lesson

A reading from Holy Gospel according to Luke:

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "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 called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived* a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

6.2 Carol

6.2.0.1 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-Rv-J46gvM>

6.3 Prayer

Lord,
you asked Joseph and Mary to trust in you.
May we come to share in their trust
and always rely on you.
Amen.

7 Fifth Lesson

Birth of Jesus Matthew 1:18-25

7.1 Lesson

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

Now this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord* appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”
which means “God is with us.”

When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home. He had no relations with her until she bore a son, and he named him Jesus.

7.2 Carol

7.2.0.1 Mary, Did You Know?¹ Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1H1-scfD1s>

¹We will need to purchase a version of this from somewhere.

7.3 Prayer

8 Sixth Lesson

Birth of Jesus according to Luke Luke 2:8-20

8.1 Lesson

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke:

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

The Visit of the Shepherds. When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

8.2 Carol

8.2.0.1 1. Hark! the Herald Angels Sing MENDELSSOHN

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZQGgpqQhs4>

Full choirs and congregation; transition to Christmas music

8.2.0.2 2. O Come, Little Children IHR KINDERLEIN, KOMMET

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4ZkfUAiGCM>

Pageant participants move into place during this song.

Note

If the pageant has scenes prior to the birth of Jesus, this song can be moved earlier in the program.

8.3 Prayer

Lord,
you came to us in humility and vulnerability.
May we always show loving care to those around us,
especially those in most need.
Amen.

9 Seventh Lesson

Visit of the Magi Matthew 2:1-12

9.1 Lesson

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ^b They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet:

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

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star’s appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage.” After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

9.2 Carol

9.2.0.1 O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELES

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2xzRghgpR0>

Full choirs plus congregation

9.3 Prayer

Lord,
you are the giver of all good gifts.
May we always remember to share our gifts with others
for the glory of your name.
Amen.

10 Eighth Lesson

TBD

Lessons and Carols generally contain 5, 7, or 9 lessons. We need one more to have 9, so...

10.1 Lesson

Is there another scene that the kids act out that has not been included?

10.2 Carol

Or is there another traditional pageant song that should be included?

10.3 Prayer

11 Ninth Lesson

Prologue to John John 1:1-14

11.1 Lesson

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 to be through him,
and without him nothing came to be.
What came to be
through him was life,
and this life was the light of the human race;
the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

A man named John was sent from God.
He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.
He was not the light, but 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 to be through him,
but the world did not know him.
He came to what was his own,
but his own people did not accept him.

But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name,
who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God.

And the Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory as of the Father's only Son,
full of grace and truth.

11.2 Carol

11.2.0.1 Go Tell It on the Mountain GO TELL IT

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gq35FUbwZl4>

11.3 Prayer

God of power and might,
you are beyond all time and space.
May we never fail to recognize your majesty
and give praise to you in all we do.
Amen

12 Concluding Rites

Closing remarks, prayer, blessing, etc.

12.1 Recessional Hymn

12.1.0.1 Joy to the World ANTIOCH

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tHS7StIz1S8>

Readers, presider, etc. process out. Pageant performers procession optional.

12.2 Postlude

12.2.0.1 Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending HELMSLEY

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GRwGu5iq42k>