

# Festival Of Lessons And Carols

*The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, we listen to nine Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer.*

Opening Song: Once in Royal David's City

Opening Prayer

We gather here to recall the mystery of our redemption.

Though sin drew us away from God, he never stopped loving us.

The prophets told of the coming of a Messiah who would initiate a reign of justice and peace.

This promise was fulfilled in the incarnation of Jesus Christ.

Let us now reflect with joy on this wondrous mystery.

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## **First Lesson**

Reading: Genesis 3:1-15

Song: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Prayer:

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

Amen.

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## **Second Lesson**

Reading: Jeremiah 23:5-8

Song: Reges Terrae

Prayer:

Lord,  
you promised that your reign  
would bring the justice  
that would never end.  
May we help to bring this justice in our time.

Amen.

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## **Third Lesson**

Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Song: Creator of the Stars of Night

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.

## **Fourth Lesson**

Reading: Isaiah 9:1-6

Song: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Prayer:

God,  
you are always with us.  
May we always trust in your presence  
and share it with those around us.  
Amen

## **Fifth Lesson**

Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Song: Ave Maria

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.

## **Sixth Lesson**

Reading: Luke 2:1-18

Song: Silent Night

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.



# Festival Of Lessons And Carols

## **Seventh Lesson**

Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Song: We Three Kings

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.

## **Eighth Lesson**

Reading: John 1:1-14

Song: Verbum Caro Factus Est

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

## **Ninth Lesson**

Reading: Matthew 28:16-20

Song: Go Tell It on the Mountain

Prayer:

Lord,  
you call us to be your witnesses  
to the ends of the earth.  
Fill our words with power  
that we may proclaim your good news  
and draw all people to you.  
Amen.

Closing Song: Joy to the World

