

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



3721 N. 21st St., Milwaukee, WI., 53206

Church: (414)873-5770 School:(414)873-8240

www.siloahlutheran.org

Christmas Day Worship – 10 AM- December 25, 2025

Presiding: Rev. Dr. Paul Steinberg

Pastor.Steinberg@SiloahLutheran.org 414.530.0476

Welcome



Visitor Check In: www.VisitSiloah.com

Member/ Partner Attend Check In:
www.AttendSiloah.com



Prayer Requests: www.PraySiloah.com

The pattern of these services has become familiar because of similar services held each year in the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, England. First scheduled in 1918, the King's service is held at 3:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and is broadcast all over the world. Entitled *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*, the event includes a traditional set of nine scripture readings and several hymns sung every year by the congregation. Additional service music, much of it based on well-known Christmas carols, is offered by the world famous Choir of King's College. In the King's service, the individual lessons are read by members of the choir and by representatives of the civic, chapel, and university communities. The reader ends each lesson by saying, "Thanks be to God."

The traditional order of service follows with its traditional readings and hymns. Where anthems normally occur, several hymns have been suggested: the first hymn is known by most congregations; the second selection may be sung by a choir or soloist.

50 Once in Royal David's City

By Senior Choir

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and mean and

mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
low - ly lived on earth our Sav - - ior ho - ly.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818-1895, abr., alt.

Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876

Text and tune: Public domain

Bidding Prayer

Dear people of God, in this Christmas season, it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us—the Christ Child lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy child.

But first, let us pray for people all over the world who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ and who would join with us in singing his

praises. Let us pray for the people of this *city/place* and for all those in our own congregation.

And, because this would please our Lord, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, and the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, those who do not love him, and those who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Be seated

35 Of the Father's Love Begotten

1 Of the Fa-ther's love be-got-ten ere the worlds be-
2 Oh, that birth for-ev-er bless-ed when the vir-gin,
gan to be, he is Al-pha and O-me-ga,
full of grace, by the Ho-ly Ghost con-ceiv-ing,
he bore the source, the Sav-ior end of - ing he,
race, of the things that are, that have
and the babe, the world's Re-deem been,
er,
and that fu-ture years shall see ev-er-more and ev-er-more.
first re-vealed his sa-cred face ev-er-more and ev-er-more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-c. 413, abr.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

Tune: plainsong, 13th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15

The Seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head.

⁸Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

“And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

¹²The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

¹⁵And I will put enmity between you and the woman,

and between your offspring and hers;

he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

2 Savior of the Nations, Come

sts. 1-3

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, by the
3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child of the

Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
Spir - it of our God was the Word of
vir - gin un - de - filed, though by all the

heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
God made flesh, wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
world dis - owned, yet to be in heav'n en - throned!

Text: Ambrose of Milan, 340–397, abr.; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–1876, alt.

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter

Text and tune: Public domain

Second Lesson

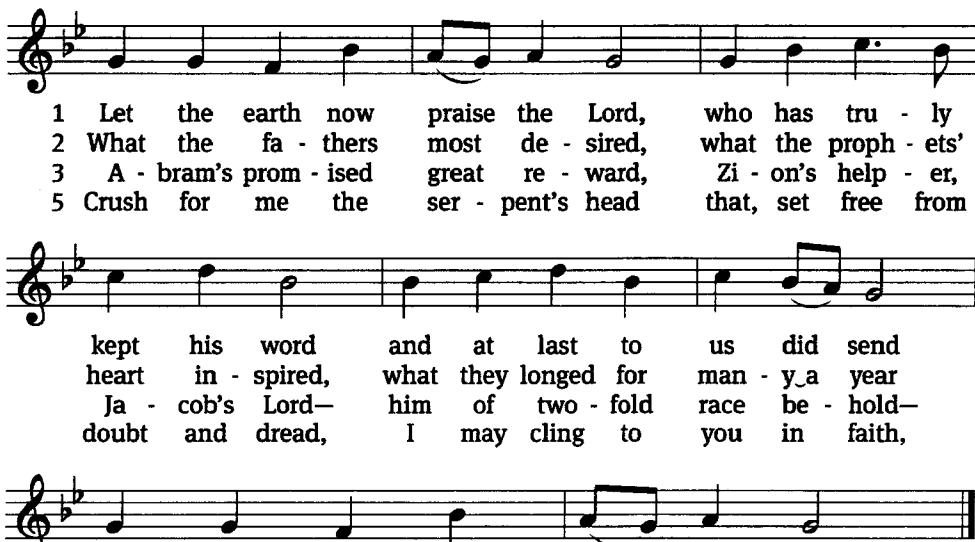
Genesis 22:15–18

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

¹⁵The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

28 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

sts. 1–3, 5



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has truly
2 What the fa - thers most de - sired, what the proph - ets'
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
5 Crush for me the ser - pent's head that, set free from

kept his word and at last to us did send
heart in - spired, what they longed for man - y a year
Ja - cob's Lord— him of two - fold race be - hold—
doubt and dread, I may cling to you in faith,

Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
safe - ly kept through life and death,

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–1659, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchley, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter

Text and tune: Public domain

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

²The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

CW 21 - 381 The People Who in Darkness Walked

sts. 1-3

1 The peo - ple who in dark - ness walked have seen a glo-ri-ous
2 To us a child of hope is born, to us a son is
3 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, the Ev - er - last - ing

light; the heav'n - ly dawn broke forth on those who
giv'n, and on his shoul - ders ev - er rests all
Lord, the Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, the

dwelt in death and night, who dwelt in death and night.
pow'r in earth and heav'n, all pow'r in earth and heav'n.
God by all a - dored, the God by all a - dored.

Text: John Morison, 1749-1798, abr., alt.

Tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561

Text and tune: Public domain

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9

A Branch from the stump of Jesse will bear fruit.

¹A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
²The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—
³and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
⁴but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;

with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

⁵Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

⁶The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead
them.

⁷The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

⁸The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

⁹They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

47 Behold, a Branch Is Growing

sts. 1-2

1 Be - hold, a branch is grow - ing of love - liest form and
2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it in words of prom - ise

grace! As proph - ets sang, fore - know - ing, it springs from Jes - se's
sure, and Mar - y's arms en - fold it, a vir - gin meek and

race and now be - gins to flow'r in midst of
pure. Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to

cold - est win - ter, at deep - est mid - night hour.
her is giv - en at mid - night calm and still.

Text: German, 16th cent.; tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845-1925

Tune: Alte Katholische Geistliche Kirchengesang, Köln, 1599

Text and tune: Public domain

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26–35, 38

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary the birth of a son.

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

24 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's de - cree:
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her Im - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame:
a bless - ed vir - gin moth - er you shall be.
"To me be as it pleas - es God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he to meek and low - ly Mar - y,
Your son shall be Im - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall praise and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name."
and Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say,

"most high-ly fa-vored maid-en." Glo - - ri - a!
most high-ly fa-vored maid-en." Glo - - ri - a!
Most high-ly fa-vored maid-en, Glo - - ri - a!
"Most high-ly fa-vored maid-en." Glo - - ri - a!

Text: Basque, c. 18th cent.; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, alt.

Tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

68 Away in a Manger

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love you, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
and take us to heav - en to live with you there.

Text (sts. 1-2): The Myrtle, Boston, 1884; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, Louisville, 1892, alt.
Tune: James R. Murray, 1841-1905
Text and tune: Public domain

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

The shepherds go to the manger.

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

CW 21 - 336 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night sts. 1-4

1 While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all
 2 "Fear not," said he for might - y dread had
 3 "To you, in Da - vid's town, this day is
 4 "The heav'n - ly babe you there shall find to

seat - ed on the ground, an an - gel of the
 seized their trou - bled mind; "glad ti - dings of great
 born of Da - vid's line a Sav - ior, who is
 hu - man view dis - played, all hum - bly wrapped in

Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.
 joy I bring to you and all man - kind.
 Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:
 swad - dling clothes and in a man - ger laid."

Text: Nahum Tate, 1652–1715, alt.

Tune: The Whole Booke of Psalmes, London, 1592; attr. George Kirbye, c. 1560–1634

Text and tune: Public domain

Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2:1–12

The Magi are led by the star to Jesus.

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

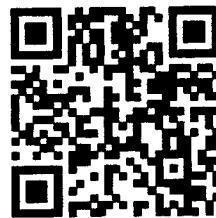
⁶“ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.’”

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Love Offerings and Generous Donations

www.GiveSiloah.com



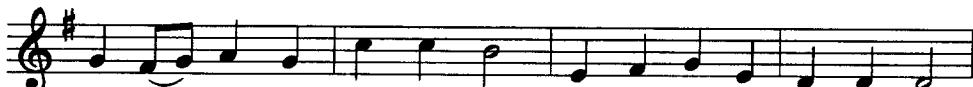
Donate to Siloah Lutheran



Member/ Partner Attend Check In:
www.AttendSiloah.com

83 As with Gladness Men of Old

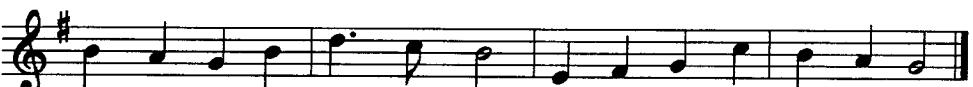
sts. 1-3



1 As with glad-ness men of old did the guid-ing star be - hold,
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam-ing bright,
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore,
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,



so, most gra-cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
all our cost-liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n-ly King.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

Tune: Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Ninth Lesson

John 1:1-14

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Be seated

Sermonette: Christmas Camping Makes for Family

55 O Come, All Ye Faithful

sts. 1, Ref, 4



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n!

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, alt.

Tune: John F. Wade, c. 1711-1786, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with such joy that comes from the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the + Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

61 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



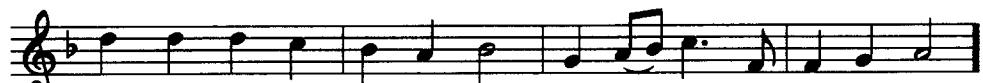
1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness!



peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847

Text and tune: Public domain

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.