LUTHERAN CHAPEL



CHRISTMAS CANTATA

"A Traditional Lessons and Carols"

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 14, 2025

lutheranchapelchurch.org (704) 864-6491

LUTHERAN CHAPEL SERVICE OF THE WORD

BOLD indicates congregational responses -* Indicates that all who are able should stand to honor God.

GATHER

PRELUDE "Christmas Bells?" Richard Purvis

ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: We gather together in the name of the Father, + the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

ELW # 264

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

"Light a Candle in the Night"

Llyod Larson

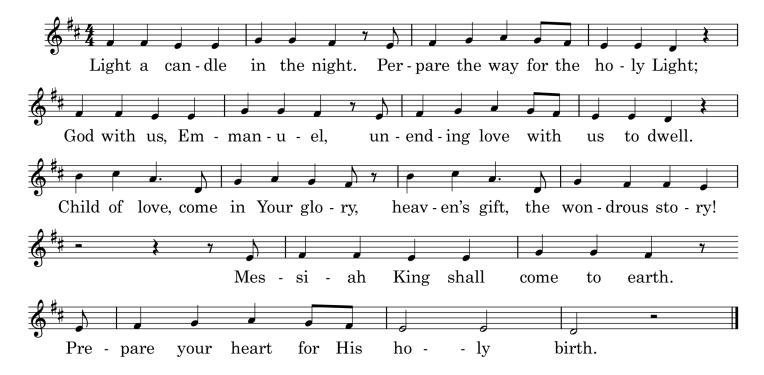
READERS Renwick Royston

Psalm 89: 1-2 - I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your faithfulness to all generations. I will declare that Your steadfast love stands firm forever, that Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Jeremiah 31:3 – The Lord appeared to us in the past saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness.

John 3:16 – "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life."

*APOSTLES' CREED



Words: Lloyd Larson and Emily E.S. Elliott

Music: Lloyd Larson

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All are invited to confess our faith in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you have not received the gift of baptism or would like to affirm your faith in Jesus and join His mission here, please indicate on the attendance registry and talk to an usher or the pastor.

L: God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life + everlasting. Amen.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

(In Unison)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

C: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Malachi 3:10, Matthew 23:23, 2 Corinthians 9:7-8

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Little Drummer Boy"

Traditional

Offered by Elena Hoffman

OFFERTORY

"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Psalm 51

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

*THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

(In Unison)

C: Blessed are You, O God, maker of all things. Through Your goodness You have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered in feeding the world with Your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

1 Timothy 2:1-4

AM: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence may be kept. Each prayer will conclude: Lord in Your mercy, and the congregation may respond **Hear our prayers.**

Prayers are commended in Jesus' Name.

AM: All these prayers and whatever else You see that we need we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

AM: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

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.

CANTATA

A Traditional Lessons and Carols

OPENING Reader: Bram Comer

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas Season our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this Chapel, glad with our carols of praise.

CAROL

"Once in Royal David's City"

ELW #269

1. Solo

Luke Hoffman, Elena Hoffman

All Sing Verses 2-5

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 and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

- 3. For he is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us he grew, He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us he knew: And he feeleth for our sadness, And he shareth in our gladness.
- 4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.
- 5. Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by, we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high; where like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.

FIRST READING

GENESIS 3:8, 15, 17, 19 Reader: Olivia Berghello

⁸ 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.

¹⁵ 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."

¹⁷ And to the man he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree

about which I commanded you,

'You shall not eat of it,'

cursed is the ground because of you;

in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the groun

until you return to the ground,

for out of it you were taken; you are dust,

and to dust you shall return."

ANTHEM

"Advent Hope"

Derek K. Hakes Offered by The Chapel Ringers

SECOND READING GENESIS 22: 15, 1

Readers: Will Clark

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. AND the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

CAROL

"Creator of the Stars of Night"

ELW #245

Vs. 1-Choir Vs. 2-Treble Voices Vs. 3-All Vs. 4-Low voices Interlude Vs. 5-All

THIRD READING

ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7, 11:1-4A, 6-9

Reader: Luke Hoffman

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

AND there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord. With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

ANTHEM

"What is This Lovely Fragrance"

Chester L. Alwes

Offered by The Chancel Choir

FOURTH READING

LUKE 1: 26-35, 38 Reader: Lily Baker

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary. And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among

women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

ANTHEM

"Magnificat"

Michael Joncas Vs. 1-2 The Chancel Choir

Vs. 3-All

Please join the final verse when invited

He raised his servant Israel, Rememb'ring his eternal grace, As from of old he did foretell To Abraham and all his race. O Father, Son and Spirit blest, In threefold Name are you adored, To you be ev 'ry prayer addressed, From age to age the only Lord.

FIFTH READING LUKE 2:1-7

Reader: Hunter Clark

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus. AND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

ANTHEM

"Silent is the Night"

Jay Althouse

Offered by The Chancel Choir

SIXTH READING

LUKE 2:8-16

Reader: Wesley Baker

The shepherds go to the manger. AND there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Mark Patterson Offered by The Chancel Choir

SEVENTH READING

Matthew 2:1-12 Reader: Katelyn Baker

The wise men follow the star to Jesus. NOW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

ANTHEM

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Arr. by Christine D. Anderson Offered by Jordan Hoffman

EIGHTH READING

John 1: 1 - 14

Reader: Pastor Michael Comer

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation. I N the beginning was the Word, and the Word was With God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

ANTHEM

"Sing Joy!"

Mark Hayes

Offered by All

Soloist: Renwick Royston

Please join the final verse when invited

Final Verse:

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns Let all their songs employ: While field and floods, rocks, hills and plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

SENDING

*BENEDICTION Numbers 6:24-26

*RECESSIONAL HYMN "On Jordan's Bank" ELW #249

*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE "Dance" Michael Burkhardt

+ + + + + + + +



Ministers	People of Lutheran Chapel
Pastor	Michael Comer
Administrative Assistant	Susan Hibsch
Director of Music Ministries	Kathie Riebe
Choir Accompanist	Anna Gilreath
Assistant Minister	
Acolyte	Hunter Clark
Crucifer	Bram Comer
Head Ushers	Steve Clark and Ervin Hoffman
First Aid/AED/CPR	Ervin Hoffman
Council Members of the Month	Rob Andrews and Jason Sanders





GENERAL INFORMATION: If your family is in need of a **nursery** attendant during the 10:00 service, please let our ushers know and they will contact one of our attendants. **Restrooms** are located on the bottom floor of the Sanctuary. Additional restrooms are located in the Educational Building and *do not require the use of stairs*. If needed, please see an usher for assistance in locating them.

TO GIVE TITHES AND OFFERINGS ONLINE: This QR code goes straight to the "Easy Tithe" page on the website that accepts tithes and offerings electronically.

ESTHER CIRCLE: Esthers Circle will meet at 10 am on Monday, December 15 at Jenette Myers house, 4200 Queensberry Rd., Gastonia.

SANTA LUNCH: The Christian Ed, Youth & Family and Worship & Music committees would like to invite everyone to stay for a Santa Lunch and birthday celebration for Jesus immediately following todays Cantata Worship Service. We will have a yummy lunch, birthday cake and even a very special guest! We hope you will mark your calendars and plan to join your Lutheran Chapel family as we celebrate Jesus' birth.

STAFF GIFT: Traditionally we present our dedicated Church Staff with a monetary "thank you" gift during the holiday season. If you feel so inclined to participate, you can drop your gift in the offering plate, mail it, drop it by the Church office or give it to one of the Executive Council members Jenny Williamson, Rob Andrews, Gene Weaver, Jason Sanders or Debra Hoffman. Please note "Staff Gift" with your contribution. The cut-off for contributions is **today** to allow for presentation to staff on Sunday, December 21. Thank you for your prayerful consideration as we honor and remember our staff members who work so diligently to serve Christ and our congregation.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE: Wednesday, December 24, music begins at 7:00 pm followed by service at 7:30 pm.

2025 CONTRIBUTIONS: It's time to get your 2025 pledges up-to-date. All donations to the church must be turned in by **Sunday**, **December 28** to be credited to your account for the year.

2025 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR: If you'd like to sign up for a Sunday in 2026, please contact Susan Lewis at 704-914-8451 or email sudalewi@gmail.com.

LOVE OFFERING FOR DECEMBER: Our December Love Offering is the ARC of Gaston

Cove

County. The ARC is a non-profit organization committed to securing various opportunities for people with Developmental Disabilities. Through the ARC, clients are enabled to choose and realize their goals of where and how they learn, live, work and play throughout Gaston County. Please prayerfully consider supporting this ministry.



Sunday, December 14	8:30 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 am	Fellowship with coffee Sunday School Worship Cantata (Sanctuary) Santa Lunch Chancel Choir (Fellowship Hall)
	4-6 pm 8:00 pm	Life In Christ (Fellowship Hall, Chapel) Faith Group (Fellowship Hall)
Monday, December 15	8:30 am 10:00 am	Preschool Esther Circle (Jeanette Myers)
Tuesday, December 16	8:30 am 10:00 am 5:30 pm	Preschool Clothing Closet Workday Chapel Ringers
Wednesday, December 17	8:30 am 6:00 pm	Preschool Holden Evening Prayer (Sanctuary)
Thursday, December 18	8:30 am 11:00 am	Preschool Bible Study (Library)
Friday, December 19	9:00 am	Men's Community Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
Saturday, December 20	9:30 am	Hungry Peeps in (Fellowship Hall)
Saturday, December 21	8:30 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 am 8:00 pm	Fellowship with coffee Sunday School Worship Staff Appreciation (Sanctuary) Confirmation Chancel Choir (Fellowship Hall) Faith Group (Fellowship Hall)



DAILY PRAYER - A HOME ALTAR ALTERS THE HOME!: Each morning and evening, pray to the LORD. Sunrise, sunset and at meals are times for daily prayer (*Psalm 1*). Claim the gift of God for yourself.

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - Week 51 December 14 to December 21, 2025

12/14 Morning Reading: Revelation 5—Evening Reading: Joel

12/15 Morning Reading: Revelation 6—Evening Reading: Amos 1, 2, 3

12/16 Morning Reading: Revelation 7—Evening Reading: Amos 4, 5, 6

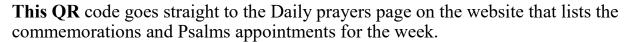
12/17 Morning Reading: Revelation 8—Evening Reading: Amos 7, 8, 9

12/18 Morning Reading: Revelation 9—Evening Reading: Obadiah

12/19 Morning Reading: Revelation 10—Evening Reading: Jonah

12/20 Morning Reading: Revelation 11—Evening Reading: Micah 1, 2, 3

12/21 Morning Reading: Revelation 12—Evening Reading: Micah 4, 5





PRAYER LIST FOR FELLOWSHIP: Margaret Berghello, Shirley Bradley, Gail Brown, Miles Carpenter, Shirley Carpenter, Delana Clark, Ruby Cook, Baker Hampton, Henry Hoffman, Jason Lineberger, Ann Lowe and Janie Peak.

FRIENDS OF THE FELLOWSHIP: Kyle Banes, Rick Belton, Kathy Bradley, Gage Brown, Deborah Carpenter, Zandra Chavis, Jeff Cobb, Doris Coggins, **Genniser Devega**, Tucker Doyne, Aishia Duncan. Kenny Falls, Jameson Franklin, Abi Gordon, Jan Green, Jerry Green, John, Kathy Jenkins, Kirk Jordan, Debbie Kerspie, Don Kincaid, Sherry McCart, Bobby Myers, Betty Parlier, Rita Pasour, Jeff Rawls, Jeff Smith, Christy Carpenter Smith, Charlene Sorenson, Judy Turner and Kennedy Williams.

To share concerns and updates for the prayer list contact: the church office (704-864-6491) or call/text Pastor Comer (704-787-6439).

NEXT WEEK'S LESSONS

Wednesday, December 17 ~ Holden Evening Prayer Service Psalm 95 "Will We Listen to His Voice?"

Thursday, December 18 ~ Story of Salvation Bible Study 1 John 4:16-21 "Gift of Confession and Forgiveness"

Sunday, December 21 ~ **HOLY COMMUNON** Revelation 14:1-5, 12-13 and Matthew 1:18-25 "*Immanuel*"

Prepare the Royal Highway



Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

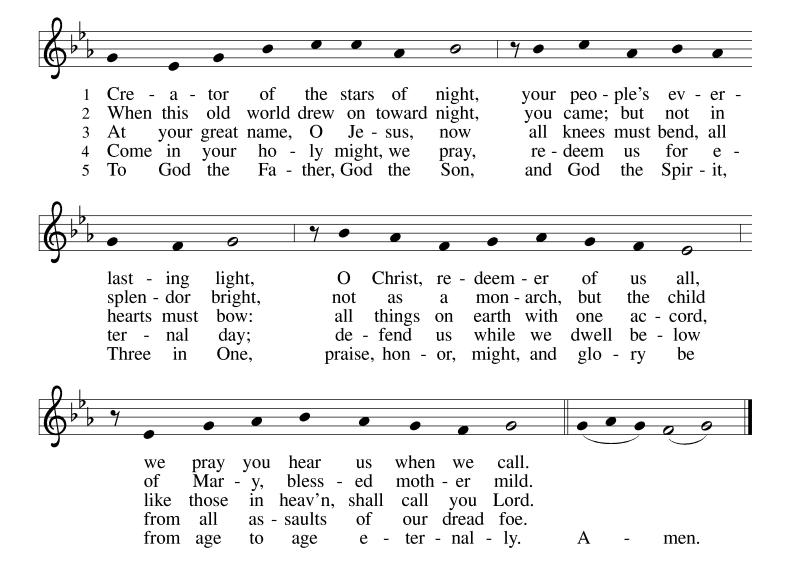
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Once in Royal David's City



Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895 Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

Creator of the Stars of Night



Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt. Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV

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On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621