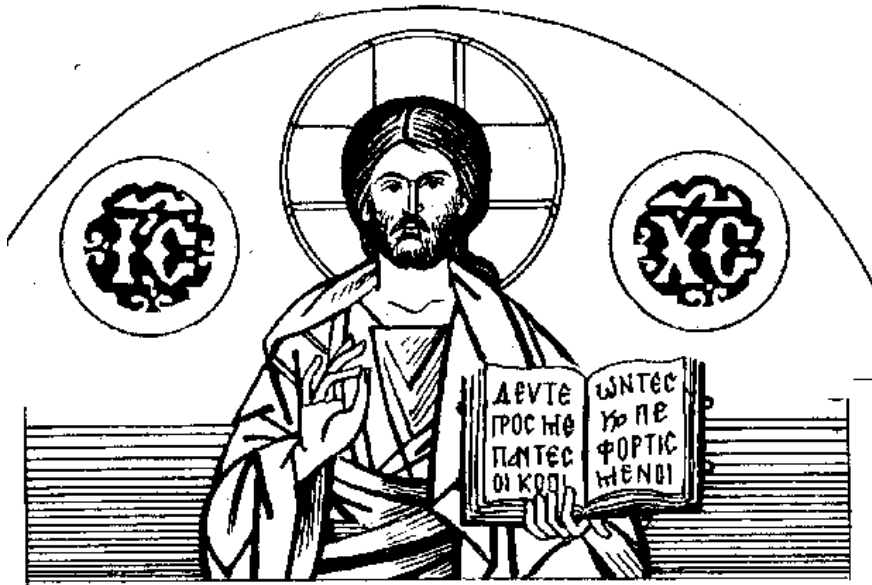


# A Service of Nine Lessons & Carols for the Season of Advent

While the service of Advent Lessons and Carols is of rather modern origin, it is based in the ancient practice of reading lessons and singing hymns while waiting in preparation for the great festivals of the Church year. This often takes the form of extended versions of the daily office, as with the Royal Hours in the Byzantine Rite. Our service of Lessons and Carols makes use of elements of Matins (which is a service of nine readings in the West) and Vespers (including the Great "O" antiphon, sung with the Magnificat in the days before Christmas). This service is offered to assist us in our preparations for the coming of the Savior, remembering both His first coming, born of a Virgin Mother, and looking forward to His coming again in power and great glory.



St. Gregory the Great Orthodox Church  
Washington, D.C.  
16 December 2006 at 6:00 in the afternoon

**Prelude**                      *Creator of the Stars of Night*                      David Johnson

**The Advent Prose**    *The people respond after each verse*



Drop down ye hea-vens from a-bove, and let the skies pour



down right-eous-ness.

**Hymn 29**    *Creator of the Stars of Night*

**Bidding Prayer** (concluding with the Lord's prayer)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

**The First Lesson**- The Prophet proclaims good news to a people in exile (Isaiah 40:1-8)

**Hymn 28**    *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*

**The Second Lesson** - The Prophet foretells the glory of the Kingdom of God (Isaiah 35:1-6)

**Hymn 32**    *Hark! The Glad Sound! The Savior Comes*

**The Third Lesson** - The Prophet foretells the birth of Christ (Isaiah 9:2-7)

**Hymn 68**    *The Race That Long in Darkness Pined*

**The Fourth Lesson** - Christ warns all to watch and be prepared (Matthew 25:1-13)

**Hymn 42**    *Wake, O wake! With tidings thrilling*

**The Fifth Lesson** - The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary (Luke 1:26-35, 38)

**Chant** (*sung by the choir*)    *Ave Maria*

**The Sixth Lesson** - The Blessed Virgin Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-47)

**Canticle**    *Magnificat*

*Antiphon:* O Wisdom, which camest out of the mouth of the most High, and reachest from one end to another, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

*Tone II 2*



MY SOUL doth magnify the / Lord, \* and my spirit hath rejoiced  
in / God my Savior.

FOR HE hath re/garded \* the lowliness of / his handmaiden.

FOR BEhold from / henceforth \* all generations shall / call me  
blessed.

FOR HE that is mighty hath magnified / me; \* and / holy is  
his Name.

AND HIS mercy is on them that / fear him \* throughout all /  
generations.

HE HATH showed strength with his / arm; \* he hath scattered the  
proud in the imagi/nation of their hearts.

HE HATH put down the mighty from their / seat, \* and hath  
exalted the / humble and meek.

HE HATH filled the hungry with good / things; \* and the rich he  
hath sent / empty away.

HE REMembering his mercy † hath holpen his servant / Israel; \*  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his / seed for  
ever.

GLORY be to the Father and to the / Son, \* and / to the  
Holy Ghost.

AS IT was in the beginning, † is now and ever / shall be, \* world /  
without end. Amen.

*The antiphon is repeated.*

**The Seventh Lesson** - The Angel appears to Joseph, telling of the  
birth of Christ (Matthew 1:18-24)

**Carol** *A Child is Born in Bethlehem, Alleluia* Samuel Scheidt

**The Eighth Lesson** - Jesus proclaims the coming of the Kingdom of  
God (Mark 1:1-15)

**Hymn 31** *Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding*

**The Ninth Lesson** - St. John foresees the Second Coming of Christ  
(Revelation 22)

**Hymn 33** *Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending*

## Vespers Responsory

V. Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be / dismayed;

R. Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with / you.

V. Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of / the Lord.

R. Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with / you.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho/ly Ghost.

R. Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with / you.

V. We wait for thy loving kindness, / O Lord.

R. In the midst of thy tem/ple.

V. Let us pray...

## The Collects and the Blessing

**Hymn 34**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**Postlude**

*Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People*

Georg Boehm

