

NINE LESSONS WITH CAROLS, FESTAL SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE.

The following Service is after ancient precedent, and is based on the final form drawn up by Bishop Benson of Truro. It will be noticed that the whole series of Lessons forms a ladder from the Fall to the Redemption. The Benedictions are taken from the Sarum Breviary. The Service is also suitable for the afternoon of Christmas Day.

All the Congregation are requested to stand during the reading of the Lesson from the Gospel of St. John, the Hymns, the Chorus Glory to God, the Hallelujah Chorus and the Magnificat.

The Benedictions are here appointed to be given by the Bishop, and the Readers are named as for a Cathedral Church, or one where there are many priests and deacons. The circumstances of any particular Church would direct the needful modification.

All kneeling.

Our Father, &c.

O Lord, open Thou our lips, &c. Gloria Patri.

The Bishop. – With perpetual benediction may the Father Everlasting bless us. **Amen.**

First Lesson. – GEN. iii. 8-15. *Reader.* – SENIOR CHORISTER.

Carol. – The Lord at first had Adam made.

The people join in singing the refrain, Now let good Christians, &c.

The Bishop. – God, the Son of God, vouchsafe to bless and aid us.

Second Lesson. – GEN. xxii. 15-19. *Reader.* – A LAY CHOIRMAN.

Carol. – Good Christian men rejoice.

The Bishop. – May the grace of the Holy Ghost enlighten us in heart and body. **Amen.**

Third Lesson. – NUM. xxiv. 15-18. *Reader.* – A LAY READER OF THE DIOCESE.

Carol. – The first Nowell the angel did say.

The verses sung by semi-choir: the refrain full, with the People.

The Bishop. – The Almighty Lord bless us with His grace. **Amen.**

Fourth Lesson. – ISA. ix. 6-9. *Reader.* – A DEACON.

Carol. – The great God of heaven is come down to earth.

Or, Anthem. – For unto us a Child is born, Handel.

The Bishop. – Christ give us the joys of everlasting life. **Amen.**

Fifth Lesson. – Micah v. 2-5. *Reader.* – A VICAR, *Decani Side.*

Carol. – Like silver lamps in a distant shrine.

Or, Hymn. – Bethlehem of noblest cities.

The Bishop. – By the words of God's Gospel be our sins blotted out. **Amen.**

Sixth Lesson. – S. LUKE ii. 8-16. *Reader.* – A VICAR, *Cantoris Side.*

Carol. – The shepherds amazed the angels behold.

Or, Anthem. – There were shepherds abiding in their fields, Handel.

The Bishop. – May the fountain of the Gospel fill us with the doctrine of heaven. **Amen.**

Seventh Lesson. – S. JOHN i. 1-15. *Reader.* – SENIOR CANON, *Decani Side.*

Hymn. – O come all ye faithful.

The Bishop. – The Creator of all things give us His blessing now and for evermore. **Amen.**

Eighth Lesson. – GAL. iv. 4-8. *Reader:* -- SENIOR CANON, *Cantoris Side.*

Carol. – Once again a blessed time.

The Bishop. – Unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all.
Amen.

Ninth Lesson. – I JOHN i. 1-5. *Reader.* – THE BISHOP.

Carol. – Come ye lofty, come ye lowly.

Or, Anthem. – Hallelujah: for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth, Handel.

Canticle. – The Magnificat.

The Bishop. – The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

Collect for Christmas Day. – Almighty God, who hast given us Thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Him, &c. *Amen.*

The Blessing.