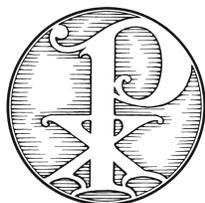


**A Prayer
Upon
Entering
Church**

We implore thy incomparable goodness, enlighten the eyes of our understanding and raise up our mind from the heavy sleep of indolence; open our mouth and fill it with Thy praise, that we may sing and confess Thee, who art God glorified in all and by all.

~ Basil the
Great



First Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 2017 + 9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

Welcome to the Lord's Day. What jubilation springs from the lips of the righteous when they receive the consolation of Israel! Simeon and Anna, though both late in years, turn to God in praise as the Christ child is brought in their midst. Their eyes have seen the salvation of the Lord, and so have yours. Christ lies before you on the altar. Take and receive with joyful exclamation what has been given to you by God, who so fervently desires to be with you!

Sharing God's Blessings Today

- Sunday's Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Donna Nuernberg, wishing everyone a blessed new year.
- The poinsettias are received from the Christmas Decorating Fund. A special insert, listing those who contributed to the Decorating Fund, was included in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day bulletins. Extra insert forms are on the tables in the narthex and reception area.
- The sponsor charts for 2018 for Radio Broadcasts and Flowers are available for you to sign up. The charts are by the stairs by the northwest entry.

A Reflection on Christmas

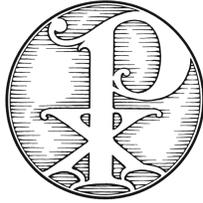
The realization of Christ's presence is the source of Christmas joy. We say that we visit the manger in spirit to rejoice. We give the appearance that Christmas is a joyous occasion. Is our joy genuine? Over what do we rejoice? Surely we have progressed beyond the point where the Nativity means only that since Christ came to die for us, we need not go to hell. Is there nothing positive? Christmas means that we who were separated from God now have Him with us. It means God present on earth, among us, in us. God is here!

To tell us that God is with us, the heavens open in Bethlehem and the glory of heaven streams forth upon the earth. God comes to earth and opens the gates of Paradise once more. They stand open ever since! "He opens us again the door of Paradise today." Heaven is the Presence of God, and heaven has come to earth. Christmas means that God is present among men, to be worshiped on bended knee as He is adored in heaven We are to spend eternity worshiping and adoring Him, in having sweet communion and fellowship with our Lord and King.

~ Fred H. Lindenmann, *The Sermons and the Propers*, 1958 A.D.

Announcements

Parish announcements may be found in the weekly newsletter, *For You*, provided by the ushers after worship.



PRELUDES

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" ... Bloedow
"Angels, from the Realms of Glory" ... Kerr & Johnson

Please stand and turn toward the cross as it is carried into the sanctuary.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory" green hymnal #50

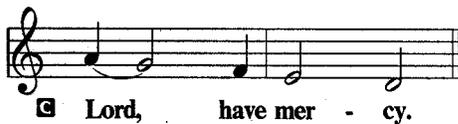
GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

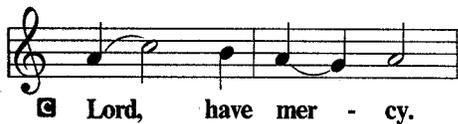
C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

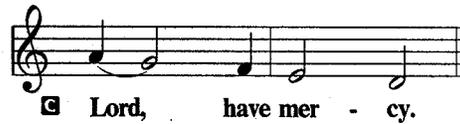


P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



All Scripture and the Word of God point to the suffering of Christ, as He Himself declares in the last chapter of Luke (24:46-47) that Scripture contains nothing else than the promised grace and forgiveness of sin through the suffering of Christ, that whoever believes in Him, and none other, shall be saved. This truth and Christ's suffering and faith are resisted by all those who refuse to be sinners . . .

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the holy Church, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.



GLORIA

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al-might - y God and
 Fa - ther: We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
 praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
 Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You

take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer. For you a-lone are the
Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-
lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
in the glo - ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men

SALUTATION AND COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

☐ And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray . . . O God, our maker and redeemer, you wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in him who made himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

. . . Especially those who have just begun to live. They do not want to admit that they are sinners, and they do not long for Christ, although God has promised in all His words that Christ should die because of sin. Therefore anyone who will not consider himself, or be considered a sinner, tries to make God a liar and himself the truth.
~ Martin Luther,
The Seven Penitential Psalms,
1517 A.D.

*Lex Semper
Accusat (the
law always
accuses)
~ Philip Mel-
anchthon,
Apology of
the Augs-
burg Con-
fession,
1531*

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 61:10–62:3

^{61:10}I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations. ^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 111

L: Hallelujah! | I will give thanks to the LORD with 'my whole heart,*
in the assembly of the upright, in the 'congregation.

Great are the deeds 'of the LORD!*
They are studied by all who de'light in them.

C: **His work is full of majes'ty and splendor,*
and his righteousness en'dures forever.**

He makes his marvelous works to 'be remembered;*
the LORD is gracious and full 'of compassion.

L: He gives food to 'those who fear him;*
he is ever mindful 'of his covenant.

He has shown his people the power 'of his works*
in giving them the lands 'of the nations.

**C: The works of his hands are faithful'ness and justice;*
all his command'ments are sure.**

**They stand fast forev'er and ever,*
because they are done in 'truth and equity.**

L: He sent redemption to his people; |
he commanded his cove'nant forever;*
holy and awesome 'is his name.

The fear of the LORD is the begin'ning of wisdom;*
those who act accordingly have a good understanding. |
His praise en'dures forever.

**All: Glory to the Father, and 'to the Son,*
and to the 'Holy Spirit;
as it was in 'the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. 'Amen**

EPISTLE Galatians 4:4-7

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son,
born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were
under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And be-
cause you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our
hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a
son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Perhaps much
of our Christ-
mas merry-
making is cal-
culated to cut
the strength of
the divine
Word. We
want to blunt
the mystery
with the mun-
dane. Taken at
150-proof the
mystery leaves
a trail of fire
that burns
through our
pious miscon-
ceptions, leav-
ing us with
throats seared
silent. Our
gasping silence
enables God to
speak. And
speak he has in
the person of
his Son, who
was made flesh
and dwelt
among us.*

~ Rev. Dr.

*Scott
Murray
2017 A.D.*

What really makes us who we are is not the past or where we came from, but the future and where we are going. The real stuff in your life is determined by what you hope for – or better yet, whom you put your hope in... That is who you become through “tense hoping.”

~ Steven Paulson, *A Brief introduction to Martin Luther*, 2017 A.D.

Please stand.

VERSE

1 We praise You, Je - sus, at Your birth; Clothed in flesh You
 2 Now in the man - ger we may see God's Son from e -

came to earth. The vir - gin bears a sin - less boy
 ter - ni - ty, The gift from God's e - ter - nal throne

And all the an - gels sing for joy. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Here clothed in our poor flesh and bone. Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²²And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant

depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” ³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED

P: Let us confess the faith with one heart:

C: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

He is set for the fall of the unbelieving Jews, but for the resurrection of the believing Gentiles. "And for a sign that is spoken against." The cross is a sign that is spoken against. Why? Because many who did not believe denied him at the cross. They ridiculed it both by words and deeds. They gave him vinegar to drink, offered him gall for his thirst, twisted a wreath of thorns to put on his brow, pierced his side with a spear, struck him their hands . . .

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for ✕ the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

Please be seated.

SUNDAY SCHOOL (9:00 a.m.)

There is no Sunday School today. It will resume next Sunday, January 7.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Let All Together Praise Our God" green hymnal #47

SERMON

"Kissin' Babies to Death"

Please kneel.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Trusting in our Lord Jesus Christ, the everlasting God and Son of Mary, let us pray.

P: . . . O King of Kings,

C: **receive our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

Please be seated.

OFFERING

*While the offerings are received, please pass in your row the **Friendship Register**, and add your name(s). If you are a guest or visitor, please include your address.*

VOLUNTARY

"Let All Together Praise Our God"

... Manz

Please stand.

OFFERTORY "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

C: **Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

*. . . and
shouted at
him with of-
fensive
clamor: "He
saved others,
but cannot
save himself."
~ Am-
philochius
of Iconium,
373 A.D.*

The Word is everything to a child: both Father and Mother, both instructor and nurse. "Eat my flesh," he says, "and drink my blood." The Lord supplies us with these intimate nutrients. He delivers over his flesh and pours out his blood; and nothing is lacking for the growth of his children. O incredible mystery!
 ~ Clement of Alexandria, 202 A.D.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, heavenly Father, for the priceless gift of your Son, sent into our flesh to redeem the creation. Grant that we may now so eat of his flesh and drink of his blood that we may ever dwell in him, and he in us.

C: Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.



☐ And al - so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.



☐ We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



☐ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS ("Holy")



☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of

pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

In the same way also he took the cup after the supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: 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

*I have not
taste for food
that perishes
nor for the
pleasures of
this life. I
want the
Bread of God
which is the
Flesh of
Christ, who
was the seed
of David, and
for drink I
desire his
Blood which
is love that
cannot be de-
stroyed.
~ Ignatius of
Antioch,
80-110
A.D.*

You will have God one way or another – whether with or without words. You will deal with God as he is preached promised, and given in Jesus Christ, or you will have God outside of Christ, and that kind of naked God never allows himself to be found...Clinging to the words of God in hope translates you to a new Lord so that your new life is a new kind of belonging to the true God in trust.

~ Steven Paulson, 2017 A.D.

the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen

ACCLAMATION

P: The Word was made flesh

C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

AGNUS DEI ("Lamb of God")

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
 sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
 God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated.

The congregation is ushered forward for Communion. If you cannot use the steps to the altar, you may either ask an usher to have Communion brought to you, or you may go to the altar in the side (west) chapel. Those not communing may cross their arms over their chest for a blessing.

Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which He joyfully gives to His Church to eat and to drink. This gift bestows tre-

mendous benefits. His body and blood forgives ours sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life and salvation.

The Lord therefore invites to His altar baptized Christians who trust that they will receive in Holy Communion all that He promises there: His body and blood, the forgiveness of sins, union with Christ and His Church, life, and salvation. Know that He gives it to you with great joy.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Gentle Mary, Laid Her Child”



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing” green hymnal #259

Please stand after all have received the sacrament.

**A Prayer
as You Go**
O Good
Shepherd,
seek me out
and bring
me home to
thy fold
again. Deal
favorably
with me ac-
cording to
thy good
pleasure, till
I may dwell
in thy house
all the days
of my life,
and praise
thee forever
and ever
with them
that are
there.
~ Jerome,
415 A.D.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. O God of wonder, we have tasted your goodness, and beheld your presence in the Word made flesh. Shine forth his light in all we say and do, and fill the earth with your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



Please turn toward the cross as it is carried out of the sanctuary.

RECESSIONAL HYMN "Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
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,
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



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—
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

"Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"

... Pachelbel

+ **Soli Deo Gloria** +

To God alone be glory

Serving at Worship

Presiding: The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde

Preaching: Vicar Joseph Pinzl

Organist: Rodney Riese

Lector: (9:00) Bill Metter

(11:00) Craig Bergendorf

Radio Announcer: (9:00) Scott Schubring

Acolytes: (9:00) Michael Cornell; Taylor Halverson; Zack Madden

(11:00) Nathan Contreras

Elder: (9:00) Marlene Kroening

(11:00) Karla Westcott

Ushers: (9:00) Sally Christoffersen; Gary Habeck;

Steve and Marlene Kroening; Ken Rodemeier

(11:00) Al Lippert; Herbert Zahrt

Communion Assistants:

(9:00) Bill Metter; Grace Mueller; Joe Pinzl

(11:00) Marge Gausewitz; Donna Nuernberg; Joe Pinzl

Altar Guild: Kay Krall; Julie Sweeney

Acknowledgements

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“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”: Text and tune: Public Domain.

Zion Lutheran Church

Sixth and Grant Streets, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

Those who trust in the Lord shall be like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever. (Psalm 125:1)

Church Telephone: 715-848-7286

Senior Pastor Steven K. Gjerde

Visitation Pastor Theodore B. Gulhaugen

Pastoral Assistant Joseph C. Pinzl

Kantor Irene Beethe

Parish Nurse Lenore Grosinske

Office Manager Pam Gabriel

Secretary Anna Mae Zeinemann

Custodian Michael Renken

To contact us by email:

zion@dwave.net

To visit our webpage:

www.zionlutheranwausau.com

Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour

Sundays, 9:00 am, WSAU Radio 550AM (or
click "Listen Live" at www.wsau.com)

Member Congregation of Lutheran Core

www.lutherancore.org