



**The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord 2017**  
“The Liturgy of the Shepherds”

Zion Lutheran Church  
Wausau, Wisconsin

8:00 p.m.

## Sharing God's Blessings

- Tonight's radio broadcast is sponsored by Dick and Dianne Ames in thankfulness for God's grace and His many blessings.
- The evergreen trees by the altar are donated from the property of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Budnik. The trees are decorated with *chrismons*, symbols of Christ, handmade by members of Zion.
- Please refer to the bulletin insert for a listing of all who gave to the Christmas Decorating Fund.

## As We Gather This Night . . .



. . . we remember those who first gathered around the Christ in His manger, and then we ponder with awe that we are closer to Him than they were.

As an infant in His manger, He had not yet given His body for bread and His blood for wine, nor had He been crucified for the sins of the world. He had not been raised to eternal majesty at God's right hand, nor had He promised, "I will be with you always, to the end of the age." All of that still lay in the future.

Yet we now gather on the far side of that future. Christ Jesus, risen, gathers the church more closely to Himself than the shepherds or angels in Bethlehem. He calls the church His body, flesh of His flesh (Eph. 5:29-32), and He promises to nourish that church with Himself (1 Cor. 10:16-17). It's as though you were now in the manger with Him!

Here is the gift of faith: eternal union with the Son of God, even now. This service, the Liturgy of the Shepherds (celebrated at night on Christmas eve), is the second part of our three-service celebration of that union. United with Christ, we adore His coming, once at Bethlehem, now in the church, and in the future by sight.

## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

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

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

**C: Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!  
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him Born the king of angels;  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**The highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing!  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**See how the shepherds, Summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, Draw nigh to gaze!  
And we, rejoicing, Swiftly add our footsteps:  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God In the highest:  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

## GREETING

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

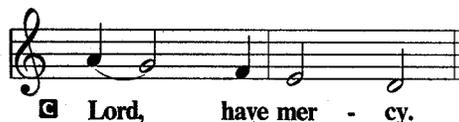
**C:** And also with you.

*Jesus Christ,  
eternal God  
and Son of  
the eternal  
Father,  
desiring to  
sanctify the  
world by his  
most merciful  
coming,  
being con-  
ceived by the  
Holy Spirit,  
and nine  
months hav-  
ing passed  
since his con-  
ception,  
was born in  
Bethlehem of  
Judea of the  
Virgin Mary.  
Today is the  
nativity of our  
Lord Jesus  
Christ ac-  
cording to the  
flesh!  
~ ancient  
Christmas  
proclama-  
tion*

*In the Kingdom of God,  
where God  
rules with the  
Gospel, there  
is no demand  
for right and  
dues, but all  
is pure for-  
givenness, par-  
don and giv-  
ing, no anger,  
no punish-  
ment, but all  
is pure broth-  
erly service  
and kindness.  
~Martin  
Luther*

## KYRIE

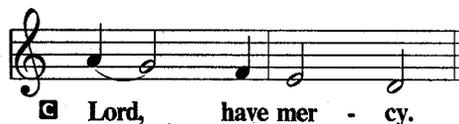
L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



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



L: 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.



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



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



# GLORIA

L: 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, you made this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day awake to the brightness of his glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

*Please be seated.*

## CHORAL RESPONSE

"Lullaby for Christmas"

... Carl Schalk

## OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 96

L: Sing to the Lord 'a new song;\*  
sing to the Lord, all 'the whole earth.

C: **Sing to the Lord and 'bless his name;\*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from 'day to day.**

L: Declare his glory a'mong the nations\*  
and his wonders a'mong all peoples.

C: **For great is the Lord and greatly 'to be praised;\*  
he is more to be feared 'than all gods.**

L: As for all the gods of the nations, they 'are but idols;\*  
but it is the Lord who 'made the heavens.

C: **Oh, the majesty and magnificence 'of his presence!\*  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his 'sanctuary!**

L: Ascribe to the Lord, you families 'of the peoples;\*  
ascribe to the Lord hon'or and power.

C: **Ascribe to the Lord the honor 'due his name;\*  
bring offerings and come in'to his courts.**

L: Worship the Lord in the beau'ty of holiness;\*  
let the whole earth trem'ble before him.

C: **Tell it out among the nations: "The 'Lord is king!\*"  
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; |  
he will judge the peo'ples with equity."**

*The incarnation is a kind of vast joke whereby the creator of the ends of the earth comes among us in dia- pers...Until we too have taken the idea of the God-man seriously enough to be scandalized by it, we have not taken it as seriously as it demands to be taken.*

*~ Fredrick  
Buechner,  
Faces of  
Jesus*

*Invisible in his own nature he became visible in ours. Beyond our grasp, he chose to come within our grasp. Existing before time began, he began to exist at a moment in time. Incapable of suffering as God, he did not refuse to be a man, capable of suffering. Immortal, he chose to be subject to the laws of death.*  
~ Leo the Great,  
400-461  
A.D.

L: Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; |  
let the sea thunder and all 'that is in it;\*' |  
let the field be joyful and all that 'is therein.

**C: Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord 'when he comes,\*  
when he comes to 'judge the earth.**

L: He will judge the 'world with righteousness\*  
and the peoples 'with his truth.

**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** Titus 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup>For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce our wicked ways and our worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from everything that is evil and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand and turn towards the Holy Scriptures as they are carried into the midst of the congregation.*

**PROCESSIONAL VERSE** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

**C: Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains.  
Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo;  
Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav’nly song?  
Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo;  
Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo.**

**P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord, according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.**

**P:** <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**P: The Gospel of the Lord.**

*This is the reason our theology is certain: because it seizes us from ourselves and places us outside ourselves.  
~Martin Luther*

**PROCESSIONAL VERSE** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

**C: Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.  
Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo;  
Glo - - - - ria in excelsis Deo.**

**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.  
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 cruci-  
fied under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scrip-  
tures; 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 for-  
giveness of sins. We look for ✕ the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

*One way of  
saying what  
happened  
with Jesus is  
that Jesus so  
attached him-  
self to you,  
that if God  
the Father  
wants his  
Son, Jesus, he  
is stuck with  
you too.*

*~ Robert  
Jensen,  
Conversa-  
tions with  
Poppi  
About God*

*Please be seated.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY "From Heaven Above"

L: From heav'n above to earth I come  
To bear good news to ev'ryone!  
Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To all the world, and gladly sing:

To you this night is born a child  
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;  
This newborn child of lowly birth  
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

**C: This is the Christ, God's Son most high,  
Who hears your sad and bitter cry;  
He will himself your Savior be  
And from all sin will set you free.**

**The blessing which the Father planned  
The Son hold in his infant hand,  
That in his kingdom bright and fair,  
You may with us his glory share.**

L: These are the signs which you will see  
To let you know that it is he:  
In manger-bed, in swaddling clothes  
The child who all the earth upholds.

**C: How glad we'll be to find it so!  
Then with the shepherds let us go  
To see what God for us has done  
In sending us his own dear Son.**

**Look, look, dear friends, look over there!  
What lies within that manger bare?  
Who is that lovely little one?  
The baby Jesus, God's dear Son.**

*Christ took upon himself this human form of ours. He became man even as we are men. In his humanity and lowliness we recognize our own form. He has become like man, so that men should be like him. And I the incarnation the whole human race recovers the dignity of the image of God... Through fellowship and communion with the incarnate Lord we recover our true humanity, and at the same time we are delivered from that individualism, which is the consequence of sin, and retrieve our solidarity with the whole...*

**SERMON** "As It Was in the Beginning . . . ."

**HYMN OF RESPONSE** "From Heaven Above"

**C: Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,  
Through whom this sinful world is blest!  
You turned not from our needs away!  
How can our thanks such love repay?**

**L: O Lord, you have created all!  
How did you come to be so small,  
To sweetly sleep in manger-bed  
Where lowing cattle lately fed?**

O dearest, Jesus, holy child,  
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
A holy shrine within my heart,  
That you and I need never part.

**C: My heart for very joy now leaps;  
My voice no longer silence keeps;  
I too must join the angel-throng  
To sing with joy his cradle-song:**

**"Glory to God in highest heav'n,  
Who unto us his Son has giv'n."  
With angels sing in pious mirth:  
A glad new year to all the earth!**

*Please kneel.*

**THE PRAYERS**

**P: . . . O King of Kings,  
C: receive our prayer.**

*Please be seated.*

## OFFERING

### VOLUNTARY

"Still, Still, Still"

... German Carol

*Please stand.*

### OFFERTORY "The First Noel"

**C:** The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!  
Born in the King of Israel.

### 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.



**C** And al - so with you.

**P:** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them to the Lord.

*...human race.  
By being partak-  
ers of Christ  
incarnate, we  
are partakers in  
the whole hu-  
manity which he  
bore...The form  
of Christ incar-  
nate makes the  
Church into the  
Body of Christ.  
All the sorrows  
of mankind fall  
upon that form,  
and only  
through that  
form can they be  
borne.  
~ Dietrich Bon-  
hoeffer, The  
Cost of Disci-  
plesh.*

*For surely our hearts ought to be certain that when we are baptized, when we eat the body of the Lord, and when we are absolved, God truly forgives us on account of Christ. And God moves our hearts through the word and the rite at the same time so that they believe and receive faith just as Paul says [Rom 10:17], "So faith comes from what is heard"...*

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 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.

*...For just as the word enters through the ear in order to strike the heart, so also the rite enters through the eye in order to move the heart.*

*~ Philip Melancthon, Ap XIII, 4-5.*

Thus this Holy Supper will transform our souls; this most divine sacrament will make us divine men, until finally we shall enter upon the fullness of the blessedness that is to come, filled with all the fullness of God, and wholly like Him.  
~ Johann Gerhard, Sacred Meditations XX, 1606 A.D

*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 tremendous benefits. His body and blood forgives our 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.*

### **ANTHEM**

*"Behold the Lamb of God"*

*... John D. Horman*

### **COMMUNION HYMNS**

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem" green hymnal #41*

*"Away in a Manger" green hymnal #67*

*Please stand after all have received the sacrament.*

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**P:** Let us pray. O God of wonder,

**C:** **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. Amen**

*Please light your candles from the aisle candles.*

**HYMN** "Silent Night, Holy Night!"

**C: Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

*Please extinguish your candle, holding it upright until it cools.  
Place your candle in the baskets by the exits.*

**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.

**C: Amen**

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

*For me it's the  
virgin birth, the  
incarnation, the  
resurrection  
which are the  
true laws of the  
flesh and the  
physical. Death,  
decay, destruc-  
tion are the sus-  
pension of these  
laws. I am al-  
ways astonished  
at the emphasis  
the Church puts  
on the body. It is  
not the soul she  
says that will  
rise but the  
body. Glorified.  
~ Flannery  
O'Connor,  
The Habit of  
Being*

**A Prayer  
As You Go**

The radiance of the Father's splendor, the Father's visible image, Jesus Christ our God, peerless among counselors, Prince of Peace, Father of the world to come, the model after which Adam was formed, for our sakes became like a slave: in the womb of the virgin, without the assistance of any man, he took flesh . . .

..

**RECESSIONAL HYMN "Joy to the World"**

**C: Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive its King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods,  
Rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessing flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

**POSTLUDE**

"Joy to the World"

... David Cherwien  
John Leavitt  
Benjamin M. Culli

**+ Soli Deo Gloria +**

*To God alone be glory*

**Serving at Worship**

**Preacher:** The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde

**Assisting:** Vicar Joseph Pinzl

**Organist:** Kantor Irene Beethe

**Flutist:** Dr. Jacob Roseman

**Pianist:** Dr. Molly Roseman

**Vocalist:** Karla Tennant

**Elder:** Bruce Muschinske

**Radio Announcer:** Paul Fandrey

**Communion Assistants:** Bill Metter; Joe Pinzl; Steve Zeinemann

**Acolytes:** Taylor Halverson; Mara Stahl; Grace Stimac

**Altar Guild:** Janet Dettmering; Bonnie Waack

**Acknowledgements**

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. . . . May we  
celebrate your  
glorious birth,  
and the Father  
who sent you  
to redeem us,  
and your  
Spirit, the  
giver of life,  
now and for-  
ever, age after  
age. Amen.

~ A Syriac  
Christmas  
Liturgy  
(early third  
century)

## **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](mailto:zion@dwave.net)

**To visit our webpage:**

[www.zionlutheranwausau.com](http://www.zionlutheranwausau.com)

**Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour**

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

**Member Congregation of Lutheran Core**

[www.lutherancore.org](http://www.lutherancore.org)