



The Nativity of Our Lord 2018
"The Liturgy of the People"

Zion Lutheran Church
Wausau, Wisconsin

10:00 a.m.

Sharing God's Blessings

- Today's broadcast is sponsored by Steve and Marlene Kroening for God's many blessings on the occasion of 52 years of marriage (January 7).
- The evergreen trees at the altar are sponsored by Bruce Goetsch, and were cut from the property of Mark Myszka. The trees are decorated with *chrismons*, symbols of Christ, handmade by Zion members.
- Please refer to the bulletin insert for a listing of all who gave to the Christmas Decorating Fund.

Welcome to the Liturgy of the People



The Christian Church has three traditional services for Christmas: the Liturgy of the Angels (Christmas Eve, sundown), the Liturgy of the Shepherds (Christmas Eve, night), and the Liturgy of the People (Christmas Day, morning). This service, the Liturgy of the People, is a time for *truth-telling*.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Truth. He reveals the truth about God and man alike, for He is Himself both God and man in one person. Not only does He reveal the truth, He *does* the truth, accomplishing in His flesh and on the cross God's great purpose: the perfect union of creation and its Creator, despite all sin. Even today, He puts Himself in your hands at Holy Communion – He belongs to you, and all the people!

PRELUDES

- "Divinum Mysterium" ... Raymond H. Haan
"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" ... Sondra K. Tucker
"A Prelude on Greensleeves" ... Charles Callahan
"Angels We Have Heard on High" ... Christine D. Anderson

RINGING OF THE BELLS

The ministers process to the chapel and assemble before the crèche.

Please kneel.

ADORATION OF THE CHRIST CHILD

- P: O blessed Christ, the radiance of glory;
O blessed Christ, eternal Son of the Father;
O blessed Christ, born of the virgin Mary:
- C: **O Jesus, very light of light, our constant star in sin's deep night; now hear the prayers your people pray throughout the world this holy day.**
- P: O blessed Child, pure sacrifice for sins;
O blessed Child, firstborn from the dead;
O blessed Child, enthroned in splendor:
- C: **O Savior, ever bear in mind the grace you showed to all mankind, when, born in flesh of virgin womb, you authored life within the tomb.**
- P: O Prince of peace, the spring of mercy;
O Prince of peace, redeemer of the world;
O Prince of Peace, who was and is and is to come:
- C: **O Christ, redeemer virgin-born, let songs of praise your name adorn whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore. Amen**

The Christians are not claiming that simply 'God' was incarnate in Jesus. They are claiming that the one true God is He whom the Jews worshipped as Jahweh, and that it is He who has descended.
~ C.S. Lewis,
Miracles,
A.D. 1947

*[Jesus] came to save all through means of Himself – all, I say, who through Him are born again to God – infants, and children, and boys, and youths, and old men. He therefore passed through every age, becoming an infant for infants, thus sanctifying infants; a child for children, thus sanctifying those who are of his age, being at the same time made to them an example of piety, righteousness, and submission.
~ Irenaeus, Against Heresies, late 100s A.D.*

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!**

**Child, for us sinners Poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love thee, Loving us so dearly?
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!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv’n!
Word 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!**

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

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



Lord, have mer - cy.

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



Lord, have mer - cy.

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.



Lord, have mer - cy.

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



Lord, have mer - cy.

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



A - men

...if [Jesus] did not receive the substance of flesh from a human being, He neither was made man nor the Son of Man; and if He was not made what we were, He did no great thing in what He suffered and endured...This, therefore, the Word of God was made, recapitulating in Himself His own handiwork; and on this account does He confess Himself the Son of Man, and blesses "the meek, because they shall inherit the earth." ~ Irenaeus, Against Heresies, late 100s A.D.

..the Saviour assumed a body for Himself, in order that the body, being interwoven as it were with life, should no longer remain a mortal thing, in thrall to death, but as endowed with immortality and risen from death, should thenceforth remain immortal.

~ Athanasius, On the Incarnation, 300s A.D.

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.



C And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray . . . Almighty God, you have made yourself known to us in your Son, Jesus, Redeemer of the world. By his birth of the Virgin Mary, set us free from the old slavery of our sin; through 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

"Christmas Song"

... Gustav Holst

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 52:7-10

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." ⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the LORD to Zion. ⁹Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. ¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Saviour of us all, the Word of God, in His great love took to Himself a body and moved as Man among men, meeting their senses, so to speak, half way. He became Himself an object for the senses, so that those who were seeking God in sensible things might apprehend the Father through the works which He, the Word of God, did in the body.

*~ Athanasius,
On the In-
carnation,
300s A.D.*

*[He became
flesh] out of
sheer love for
us, so that in
His death all
might die,
and the law of
death thereby
be abolished
because,
when He had
fulfilled in
His body that
for which it
was ap-
pointed, it
was thereafter
voided of its
power for
men. This He
did that He
might turn
again to in-
corruption
men who had
turned back
to corruption,
and make
them alive
through death
by the appro-
priation of
His body and
by the grace
of His resur-
rection. Thus
He would
make death to
disappear
from them as
utterly as...*

PSALM 2

Choir: Why are the nations 'in an uproar?*"
Why do the peoples mutter 'empty threats?

**C: Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the
princes 'plot together,*
against the LORD and against 'his anointed?**

Choir: "Let us break their 'yoke," they say;*"
"let us cast off their 'bonds from us."

**C: He whose throne is in heav'en is laughing;*"
the Lord has them 'in derision.**

Choir: Then he speaks to them 'in his wrath,*
and his rage fills 'them with terror.

**C: "I myself have 'set my king*"
upon my holy 'hill of Zion."**

Choir: Let me announce the decree 'of the LORD:*"
He said to me, "You are my son; this day have I be'gotten
you.

**C: Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for 'your inheri-
tance*"
and the ends of the earth for 'your possession.**

Choir: You shall crush them with an 'iron rod*"
and shatter them like a 'piece of pottery.

**C: And now, you 'kings, be wise;*"
be warned, you rulers 'of the earth.**

Choir: Submit to the 'LORD with fear,*
and with trembling 'bow before him;

**C: lest he be angry, 'and you perish,*
for his wrath is 'quickly kindled.**

Choir: Happy 'are they all*
who take ref'uge in him!

**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 Hebrews 1:1-6

¹Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? ⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

*...straw from
fire.*

The Word perceived that corruption could not be got rid of otherwise than through death; yet He Himself, as the Word, being immortal and the Father's Son, was such as could not die. For this reason, therefore, He assumed a body capable of death...by surrendering to death the body which He had taken, as an offering and sacrifice free from every stain, that He forthwith abolished death for His human brethren by the offering of the equivalent...He fulfilled in death all that was required.

*~ Athanasius,
On the Incarnation,
300s A.D.*

[John] does not want to treat of the divine, almighty, eternal Word of God nor talk of it except in terms of the flesh and blood which sojourned here on earth...he wants to gather us together out of these farfetched high flown thoughts in Christ, as if he were saying: Why do you wander away and why do you do your looking in distant places? Behold, in Christ, the Man, is everything; He has made everything; in Him is life; He is the Word by Whom all things were made. Remain in Him, and you will find all of this.

~ Martin Luther, Sermon for the Main Christmas Service, 1522 A.D.

PROCESSIONAL VERSE "We Praise You, Jesus, At Your Birth"

As the Scriptures are carried into the midst of the congregation, please turn to where the Holy Gospel will be proclaimed.



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 St. John 1:1-14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived

among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

PROCESSIONAL VERSE "We Praise You, Jesus, At Your Birth"

4 The Light E - ter - nal, break - ing through, Made the world to
7 All this for us our God has done Grant - ing love through
gleam a - new; His beams have pierced the core of night,
His own Son. There-fore, all Chris - ten - dom, re - jice
He makes us chil - dren of the light. Al - le - lu - ia!
And sing His praise with end - less voice. Al - le - lu - ia!

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 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.

Christ, even before His birth, from the beginning and until the end, has always been life and light, and He shines at all times in all creatures in the Holy Scriptures through His holy people, prophets and preachers, with works and words, and He has never ceased to shine. But there is darkness wherever he sheds his light, and the darkness does not comprehend him.

~ Martin Luther, Sermon for the Main Christmas Service, 1522 A.D.

He [the eternal Word of God] entered the world in a new way, stooping to our level in His love and Self-revealing to us. He saw the reasonable race, the race of men that, like Himself, expressed the Father's Mind, wasting out of existence, and death reigning over all in corruption...All this He saw and, pitying our race, moved with compassion for our limitation, unable to endure that death should have the mastery, rather than that His creatures should perish and the work of His Father for us men to come to...

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" green hymnal #60

SERMON "Newborns!"

Please kneel.

THE PRAYERS

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

(after each prayer:)

P: . . . O King of Kings,

C: receive our prayer.

P: . . . one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Please be seated.

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

"Come Rejoicing, Praises Voicing" . . . Benjamin M. Culli

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!

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.



P: Lift up your hearts.



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



...naught, He took to Himself a body, a human body even as our own...He took our body, and not only so, but He took it directly from a spotless, stainless virgin, without the agency of human father – a pure body, untainted by intercourse with man. He, the Mighty One, the Artificer of all, Himself prepared this body in the virgin as a temple for Himself, and took it for His very own, as the instrument through which He was known and in which He dwelt.

~ Athanasius, On the Incarnation, 300s A.D.

Enemy-occupied territory – that is what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say landed in disguise, and is calling us all to take part in a great campaign of sabotage. When you go to church you are really listening-in to the secret wireless from our friends: that is why the enemy is so anxious to prevent us from going.

~ C.S. Lewis,
Mere Christianity,
1952 A.D.

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, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

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.

The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God. We do not know, - anyway, I do not know - how things would have worked if the human race had never rebelled against God and joined the enemy. Perhaps every man would have been 'in Christ', would have shared the life of the Son of God, from the moment he was born... But that is guesswork. You and I are concerned with the way things work now.

*~ C.S. Lewis,
Mere Christianity,
1952 A.D.*

**A Prayer
As You Go**
Heavenly Father, what joy fills my heart this day because of Your Son, Jesus Christ! Help me to understand the fullness of what it means for God to become man and the mystery of the Incarnation. Knowing the depth of Your love for fallen humanity and knowing joy has indeed come to this world, may Your Spirit continue to fill my heart with unending appreciation and adoration of what You have done for me in Jesus Christ. Amen.

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” green hymnal #70

“What Child Is This” green hymnal #40

“Angels We Have Heard on High” green hymnal #71

Please stand after all have received the Sacrament.

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 "Joy to the World"

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.

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

"Joy to the World"

... Lloyd Larson

+ Soli Deo Gloria +

To God alone be glory

Acknowledgements

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Gospel scripture is from The Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version.

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UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES AT ZION

... Wednesday, December 26, Matins at 10:00 a.m. and Vespers at 6:30 p.m. We will celebrate St. Stephen, Martyr. These services include Holy Communion.

... Saturday, December 29 at 5:15 p.m. and Sunday, December 30 at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. We will celebrate the First Sunday after Christmas. All three services include Holy Communion.

... Monday, December 31, at 6:30 p.m. in Zion's sanctuary. We will celebrate New Year's Eve. This service includes Holy Communion.

Serving at Worship

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Steven Gjerde

Presiding: The Rev. Chris Johnson

Assisting Minister: Vicar Joseph Pinzl

Organist: Kantor Irene Beethe

Instrumentalists: Meagan Cihlar-horn

Chad Premeau-trumpet

Mary Premeau-violin and timpani

Choir: Zion Kantorei

Radio Announcer: Dick Ames

Elder: Adam Holzschuh

Communion Assistant: Sally Christoffersen

Acolyte: Anna Gjerde

Altar Guild: Vicky Radunz; Bonnie Waack

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
Associate Pastor Christopher S. Johnson
Pastoral Assistant Joseph C. Pinzl
Kantor Irene Beethe
Children's Catechist Ivan Beethe
Parish Nurse Lenore Grosinske
Office Manager Pam Gabriel
Secretary Anna Mae Zeinemann
Custodian Michael Renken

To contact us by email:
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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)

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