



**The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord 2018**  
“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 memory of their son-in-law, Bill Deneen.
- 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 Shepherds



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 Shepherds, is a time to *adore*.

*Adoration* is what the shepherds did when they ran to Bethlehem. They knelt before the King of heaven, now born as a humble, human servant on earth, and they adored the little guy. At this second service of Christmas, we do the same, coming to Jesus as He comes to us in the Holy Supper, still in His humble humanity of body and blood, to receive Him with thanksgiving, adoration, and praise.

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

### SOLO

"O Holy Night"

... Adolphe Adams

### 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!**

*...when all  
seemed most  
unlikely –  
comes Christ,  
and is born of  
the despised  
stump, of the  
poor and lowly  
maiden! The  
rod and flower  
springs from  
her whom Sir  
Annas' or  
Caiaphas'  
daughter  
would not  
have deigned  
to have for her  
humblest  
lady's maid.  
Thus God's  
work and His  
eyes are in the  
depths, but  
man's only in  
the height.*

*~ Martin Lu-  
ther, Com-  
mentary  
on the  
Magnificat,  
A.D. 1521*

*...still Satan does not leave off from his cruelty, hatred, and hostility against the Seed of the woman. When He has been placed into His cradle, Satan makes a search for Him through Herod, so that Christ has to live among the Gentiles in Egypt. Later on he tries everything, and also tempts Him, until, when He had been seized in the garden, he delivers Him up to the Jews and attaches Him to the cross. But not even by His death can Satan's inexhaustible hatred be satisfied. He fears Him after He has been buried...*

## 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.



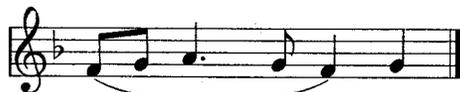
☐ Lord, have mer - cy.

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

# 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

...So bitter is his enmity against the Son of God! Now when he sees Him sitting at the right hand of God and being what is called "out of range," he rages with every kind of fury against the poor members of His church. There are prophecies here of all these dangers; nevertheless, we ought to sojourn among them with good courage and with confidence in the Son of God, who is crushing Satan.  
~ Martin Luther, Lectures on Genesis, A.D. 1536

God has a way of turning our expectations upside down. He can reject what looks powerful and influential in our eyes and in the world, and He can choose and use what appears to be nothing [like with Mary, the mother of our Lord]. He has a different standard of measurement than politicians and economists, and a different standard of measurement than the champions of piety and zealous role models. There is an insignificance, an impoverishment, a yearning emptiness, that feels worthless...

## SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.



☐ And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray . . . O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



☐ A - men

*Please be seated.*

### 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.**

**GRADUAL** "Arise and Shine" .... John R. Paradowski

Cantor: Arise and shine! Your light has come to all who dwell in darkness. Arise and shine, for in our midst the light of Christ is with us.

**Congregation:**

*Antiphon*

A - rise and shine! Your light \_\_\_ has come to  
all who dwell in dark-ness. A - rise and shine, for  
in \_\_\_ our midst the light of Christ is with us.

Cantor: We who walked in dark of night, have seen a great light.  
A star haw shown our Lord was born; the dawn on this  
new day.

C: **Antiphon**

Cantor: Unto us a child was born, a Son was giv'n. Baptized by  
John, now he reigns as mighty Prince of Peace, the mighty  
Prince of Peace.

C: **Antiphon**

Cantor: The light of Christ is with us.

*...but has true faith. For faith is always a need for God, confidence in His mercy and power, a conviction that He knows and wants what is best for us. Faith makes us open and receptive. This is how men of faith become instruments of God. True greatness exists in those who expect great things of God and allow Him to do great things with them.*

*~ Bo Giertz,  
To Live with Christ,  
pp. 66-67,  
A.D. 1950s*

*The Christian church keeps all the words of God in her heart and ponders them, compares one with the other and with Holy Scripture. Therefore he who wants to find Christ, must first find the church. How would one know Christ and faith in him if one did not know where they are who believe in him? He who would know something concerning Christ, must neither trust in himself nor build his bridge into heaven by means of his own reason, but he should go to the church...*

**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** "Let Our Gladness Have No End"

C: **Let our gladness have no end, Hallelujah!  
For to earth did Christ descend. Hallelujah!  
On this day God gave us Christ, his Son, to save us;  
Christ, his Son, to save us.**

**See, the loveliest blooming rose, Hallelujah!  
From the branch of Jesse grows, Hallelujah!  
On this day God gave us Christ, his Son, to save us;  
Christ, his Son, to save us.**

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

<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. Alleluia!

**PROCESSIONAL VERSE** "Let Our Gladness Have No End"

**C: Into flesh is made the Word. Hallelujah!  
He, our refuge and our Lord. Hallelujah!  
On this day God gave us Christ, his Son, to save us;  
Christ, his Son, to save us.**

**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.**

*...he should attend it and ask his questions there. The church is not wood and stone but the assembly of people who believe in Christ. With this church one should be connected and see how the people believe, live and teach. They certainly have Christ in their midst, for outside the Christian church there is no truth, no Christ, no salvation.*

*~ Martin Luther, Sermon on the Gospel for the Early Christmas Service, A.D. 1522*

*We saw that his [Jesus'] poverty teaches how we are to find him in our neighbor, in the lowliest and the neediest, and that his diapers are the Holy Scriptures. Thus in our active life we are to stick with the needy, while in our studies and in our contemplative life we are to stay only with God's word, so that Christ alone is in both aspects the man who is everywhere before us.*

*~ Martin Luther, Sermon on the Gospel for the Early Christmas Service, A.D. 1522*

**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.*

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*"Lo, How a Rose Is Growing" green hymnal #58*

### **SERMON "The Anatomy of Amazement"**

*Please kneel.*

### **THE PRAYERS**

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

*Please be seated.*

### **OFFERING**

### **VOLUNTARY**

*"What Child is This"*

*... Russell Schulz Widmar*

*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.

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



**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*In the Christian story God descends to reascend. He comes down; down from the heights of absolute being into time and space, down into humanity; down further still, if embryologists are right, to recapitulate in the womb ancient and pre-human phases of life; down to the very roots and seabed of the Nature He has created. But He goes down to come up again and bring the whole ruined world up with Him.*

~ C.S. Lewis,  
*Miracles*,  
A.D. 1947

Traveling with the shepherds to see this thing that the Angel announced, two sets of eyes are needed. Your ordinary eyes can behold what the prophet Micah foretold about a woman in labor who will give birth to a baby boy in Bethlehem. No specially trained eyes are needed to take in the ordinary props of the traditional crèche scene – the stable barn, the domestic animals, the feed trough complete with mother and child. These elements of the Christmas story in Matthew and Luke can be seen by...

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.*

*...anyone who would make the journey. But, the eyes of faith are required to see and appreciate what Luther understood as God's penchant to use common worldly props and opposites to reveal Himself and carry out His redemptive work. In and with straw and clad in diapers, you are invited to behold and worship the One Isaiah prophesied...The now-born seed of the woman is the eternal Word of God, made flesh and here to dwell among us. The glory of the Lord is here in this Little One we behold Who cannot yet control His bladder.*

*~ Steven Hein,  
"Behold the King Israel  
Never Expected"  
A.D. 2016*

*The central miracle asserted by Christians is the Incarnation. They say God became Man. Every other miracle prepares for this, or exhibits this, or results from this...The fitness, and therefore credibility, of the particular miracles depends on their relation to the Grand Miracle [the Incarnation]; all discussion of them in isolation from it is futile.*

~ C.S. Lewis,  
*Miracles*,  
A.D. 1947

*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**

*"Born in the Night, Mary's Child"*

... Geoffrey Ainger; arr. Hal Hopson

## **COMMUNION HYMNS**

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

*"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"* green hymnal #44

*"I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve"* green hymnal #69

*Please stand after all have received the sacrament.*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.*

**A Prayer  
As You Go**  
Heavenly Father, on this holy night I am reminded again of the lengths to which You went in order to save me; becoming helpless, powerless, cradled in young Mary's arms. Since You have become weak for us, help us to become strong for You, not trusting in ourselves but trusting in Your might and power that looks like weakness to the world. In You, dear Lord, in Your Son, I have all I could ever need and more. 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.

**C: Amen**

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

## **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”

... Michael Burkhardt

**+ Soli Deo Gloria +**

*To God alone be glory*

### **Serving at Worship:**

Preaching: The Rev. Chris Johnson

Presiding: The Rev. Dr. Steven Gjerde

Assisting Minister: Vicar Joseph Pinzl

Organist: Kantor Irene Beethe

Flutist: Dr. Jacob Roseman

Pianist: Dr. Molly Roseman

Vocalist: Karla Tennant

Elder: Donna Nuernberg

Radio Announcer: Paul Fandrey

Communion Assistant: Rob Kittel

Acolytes: Nathan Contreras; Taylor Halverson; Grace Stimac

Altar Guild: Sally Christoffersen; Bonnie Waack

**Acknowledgements:**

*The liturgy and hymns are from the Lutheran Book of Worship, © 1978. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #SB129062. Old Testament and Epistle scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

*“Arise and Shine!” © 2005 Choristers Guild. Reprinted for congregational use by permission of the publisher.*

*The Gospel scripture is from The Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*



## **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:**  
[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)