



The Nativity of Our Lord 2019
“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 and answered prayers.
- The bulletins are sponsored by Bruce and Barb Thornton, in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary on December 26.
- The evergreen trees by the altar are donated anonymously by a grateful member of Zion. 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.

On the Cover

The cover picture is "The Nativity" by Lorenzo Lotto, painted in 1523 A.D. It depicts St. Joseph and the blessed Virgin Mary adoring God in the flesh, Jesus, the newborn King. In many respects, it looks like a typical scene of the Nativity, with Mary, Jesus, and Joseph gathered in a stable, a few angels flying overhead. Yet if you look at the upper left of the picture, you will note another image in the shadow: a crucifix, the image of Christ crucified. It's a reminder to us all that the birth of Jesus took place in preparation for something more solemn, and yet more redemptive and joyful: the death and resurrection of our Lord to save sinners and inaugurate the New Creation.

PRELUDES

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"	...Dallas Blair
"Pat-A-Pan"	... Clark Kimberling
"Christmas Dawn"	... Raymond Haan
"O Come, All Ye Faithful"	...Dallas Blair

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**

*I am no
longer
amazed that
heaven, earth,
sea, and all
that is in
them were
made by God
for us because
God Himself
ordained to
become a man
for the sake of
His human
creatures*

*[continued,
next page]*

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

PROCESSIONAL HYMN “Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful”

*. . . Truly,
[Lord God,]
You cannot
reject me and
turn me away
because You
cannot deny
that You
Yourself are a
man and
therefore my
brother (2
Timothy
2:13). You
can never
forget me be-
cause You
have en-
graved me on
the palms of
Your hands
(Isaiah
49:16).
Christ's com-
munion with
humanity
daily and
continually
makes You
mindful of
me. You can-
not forsake
me . . .*

**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

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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

A - men

... because You, by the closest bond of the personal union, ordained to join the human nature to Yourself. Therefore, no matter how much my sins hinder me from coming to You for mercy, the communion of the two natures in Christ will not allow me to be driven away. I will depend totally on You, the one who totally assumed my humanity. Amen
~ Johann Gerhard, Meditations on Divine Mercy, 1612 A.D.

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

Christ is born. He is born to us. And, He is born today. For Christmas is not merely a day like every other day . . . Today, Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who was in the beginning with the Father, in whom all things were made, by whom all things consist, enters into the world which he created in order to reclaim souls who had forgotten their identity. Therefore, the church exults, as the angels come down to announce not merely an old thing which happened long ago . . .

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

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.

Choir: 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

Choir: The light of Christ is with us.

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.**

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.**

... but a new
thing which
happens to-
day. For to-
day, God the
Father makes
all things new,
in his divine
Son, our re-
deemer
Therefore, the
church on
earth joins
with the
church in
heaven to sing
one same
song, the new
song which
the prophet
commanded
all to sing af-
ter the world
should have
been redeemed
by the Christ .
. . .

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the next page]

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... "Sing to
the Lord a new
song" [was the
first of] the
songs the
church would
sing on this
day in her lit-
urgy, as she
announces to
the whole
world salvation
and joy. For as
St. Leo says:
"Today there
has shone upon
us a day of new
redemption, a
day restoring
that which was
long lost, a day
of bliss unend-
ing."

~ Thomas
Merton,
1900s A.D.

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

PROCESSIONAL VERSE "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**C: Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled,"
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

GOSPEL St. John 1:1-14

The holy Gospel of our Lord according to St. John, the first chapter.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord. Alleluia.

PROCESSIONAL VERSE "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**C: Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

*Whoever in
faith seizes
this word,
The Savior is
born for you
today, Christ
is spiritually
born in such
a person.
The words of
faith: You
are my
Christ, my
Savior, My
Salvation-
Maker.
Whoever
honors God,
experiences
peace in his
heart and
finds all his
pleasure in
this little
Jesus. In
such a per-
son Christ is
spiritually
born. 46
~ Johann
Gerhard
(d. 1637
A.D.),
Seven
Christmas
Sermons*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

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.

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.

[Speaking as the Virgin Mary:] I shall not be jealous, my Son, that You are with me, and also with all men. Be God to the one who confesses You, and be Lord to the one who serves You, and be brother to the one who loves You, that You may gain all! When You did dwell in me, You did also dwell out of me, and when I brought You forth openly, Your hidden might was not removed from me. You are within me, and You are outside me – O You amaze Your mother! ...

Death was reign-ing o'er us Through sin and van-i-ty
 Till He o-pened for us A bright e-ter-ni-ty.
 May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!

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.

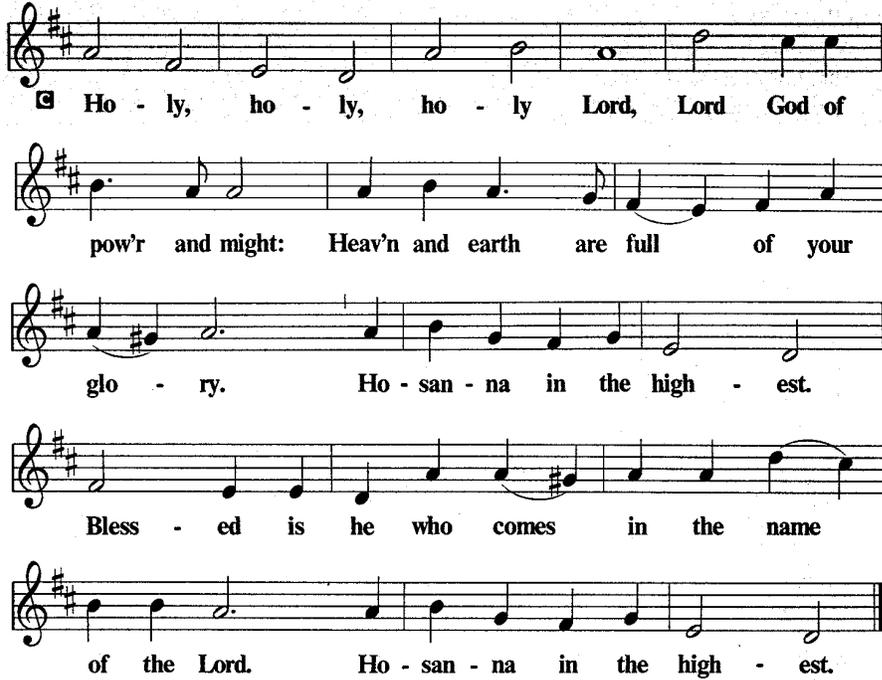
We lift them to the Lord.

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.

. . . In Your visible form I see Adam and in Your hidden form I see Your Father, who is joined with You. Have You then shown me alone Your beauty in two forms? Let bread shadow forth You, and also the mind; dwell also in bread and in the eaters thereof. In secret, and openly too, may Your church see You, as well as Your mother . . .

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... Lo! Your image is shadowed forth in the blood of the grapes on the bread; and it is shadowed forth on the heart with the fingers of love, with the colors of faith. Blessed is He who by the image of His truth caused the graven images to pass away.
~ Ephrem of Syria,
306-73 A.D.

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.

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.

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Glad Tidings”

... Natalie Sleeth

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Your Little Ones, Dear Lord” green hymnal #52

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” green hymnal #44

“Let Our Gladness Have No End” green hymnal #57

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

**A Prayer
As You Go**
 Merciful Father of Jesus, the only-begotten Son, we praise and thank You for the gift of Your Son, whose body has borne the cross and whose blood anointed the wood of the cross. Having now nourished us with this same food and drink, grant that we, as newborn souls, might live in perpetual praise of Your grace; through Christ our Lord. 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” green hymnal #39

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

Gigue on “Joy to the World” ... Sondra K. Tucker

+ Soli Deo Gloria +
To God alone be glory

UPCOMING SERVICES

Saturday, December 28:

First Sunday after Christmas.....Holy Communion, 5:15 p.m.

Sunday, December 29:

First Sunday after ChristmasHoly Communion, 9 and 11 a.m.

Tuesday, December 31:

New Year’s EveHoly Communion, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 4:

Second Sunday after Christmas.....Holy Communion, 5:15 p.m.
(observing Epiphany)

Sunday, January 5:

Second Sunday After Christmas ...Holy Communion, 9 and 11 a.m.
(observing Epiphany)

Serving at Worship

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde

Presiding: The Rev. Joseph Pinzl

Assisting: The Rev. Christopher Johnson

Organist: Kantor Irene Beethe

Choir: Zion Kantorei

Soloist: Jim Speckhard

Trumpet: Chad Premeau

Horn: Meagan Cihlar

Violin/Timpani: Mary Premeau

Radio Announcer: Dick Ames

Acolytes: Lilith Christoffersen; Noah Harter; Asa Rich

Elder: Robb Halverson

Communion Assistant: Donna Nuernberg

Altar Guild: Anna Mae Zeinemann

Acknowledgements

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“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”: 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)

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Senior Pastor Steven K. Gjerde
Associate Pastor Christopher S. Johnson
Associate Pastor Joseph C. Pinzl
Kantor Irene Beethe
Office Manager Pam Gabriel
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Custodian Michael Renken

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Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour
Sundays, 9:00 am, WSAU Radio 550AM (or
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