

The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord 2019
“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 remembrance of: their parents, Clarence and Helen Glasel, and Robert and Florence Ames; their sisters, Rosemary Ruechel and Rebecca Ames-Jenner; and their son-in-law, Bill Deneen.
- 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.

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. *Cover art: Adoration of the Shepherds, by Gerrit von Honthorst, Dutch painter, d. 1656 A.D., detail.*

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.

*On account of this personal union and communion of the two natures, Mary, the most blessed virgin, did not conceive a mere, ordinary human being, but a human being who is truly the Son of the most high God, as the angel testifies. He demonstrated his divine majesty even in his mother's womb in that he was born of a virgin without violating her virginity. Therefore she is truly the mother of God and yet remained a virgin.
~ Formula of Concord, 1580 A.D.*

*O Jesus
Christ,
Thy manger
is my para-
dise at which
my soul re-
clineth.*

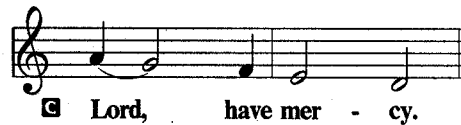
*For there, O
Lord, doth lie
the Word
Made flesh
for us; herein
Thy grace
forth shineth.*

*He whom the
sea and wind
obey doth
come to serve
the sinner in
great meek-
ness.*

*Thou, God's
own Son,
with us art
one, dost join
us and our
children in
our weak-
ness . . .*

KYRIE

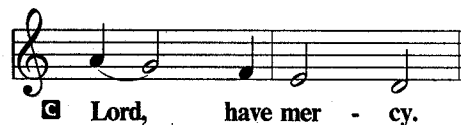
P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



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



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



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



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



GLORIA

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

Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and
Fa - ther: We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly
Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the
Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a -
lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

... Thou
Christian
heart,
whoe'er thou
art, be of good
cheer and let
no sorrow
move thee!

For God's
own Child,
in mercy
mild,
joins thee to
Him; how
greatly God
must love
thee!

~ Paul
Gerhardt,
O (1607-
1676 A.D.)
Jesus
Christ, Thy
Manger Is

I recall the student who came to me, distressed that he was, in his words, "losing my faith." When I inquired what the faith was that he was losing, he replied that "I have problems with the virgin birth of Jesus. Don't I have to believe in the miraculous birth of Jesus in order to believe in Jesus?" he persisted . . . ["Yes," I replied,] "We ask you to believe in the virginal conception of Jesus . . .

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**

CHORAL RESPONSE

"The Birthday of a King" ... William Howard Neidlinger

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷Of 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."

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.

*... [Then]
come back
next week
and we'll try
to convince
you that the
poor are roy-
alty and the
rich are in big
trouble, that
God, not na-
tions, rules
the world,
and on and
on. We start
you out with
something
fairly small,
like the virgin
birth, then
work you up
to even more
outrageous
assertions."
~ Pr. William
H. Willi-
mon,
1900s A.D.*

*It is because
of His hu-
manity and
His incarna-
tion that
Christ be-
comes sweet
to us, and
through Him
God becomes
sweet to us.
Let us there-
fore begin to
ascend step
by step from
Christ's cry-
ing in His
swaddling
clothes up to
His Passion.
Then we shall
easily know
God.
~ Martin
Luther,
Lectures on
Isaiah
(1527-30
A.D.)*

**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

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,
¹²training us to renounce our wicked ways and our worldly pas-
sions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled,
upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the
manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus
Christ. ¹⁴He 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 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

**C: O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God the king,
And peace to all the earth!**

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

P: ¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The 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.

PROCESSIONAL VERSE "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

**C: How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
But, in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.**

What you do not understand, treat with reverence and be patient, and what you do understand, cherish and keep.

~ Augustine of Hippo, Sermons for Christmas and Epiphany (400s A.D.)

*You cannot
kiss an idea,
cannot touch
it or hold it.
Ideas do not
bleed, they do
not feel pain.
They do not
love.*

*~ Evie
Hammond,
V for
Vendetta*

**O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!**

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Once Again My Heart Rejoices"

Solo: Once again my heart rejoices
As I hear, far and near,
Sweetest angel voices; "Christ is born!"
their choirs are singing,
Till the air ev'rywhere
Now with joy is ringing.

**C: Hark! A voice from yonder manger,
Soft and sweet, does entreat,
"Flee from woe and danger;
Come and see; from all that grieve you
You are freed; all you need
I will surely give you!"**

**Come, then, let us hasten yonder;
Here let all, great and small,
Kneel in awe and wonder;
Love him who with love is yearning;
Hail the star that from afar
Bright with hope is burning.**

SERMON "Treasured!"

Please kneel.

THE PRAYERS

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

P: . . . O King of Kings,

C: receive our prayer.

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

C: Amen

*In this way is he [the true Christian] always pure for prayer. He also prays in the society of angels, as being already of angelic rank, and he is never out of the holy keeping; and though he prays alone, he has the choir of the saints standing with him [in prayer].
~ Clement of Alexandria, 208 A.D.*

Please be seated.

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY

"O Holy Night"

... Adolphe Adams

Please stand.

OFFERTORY "From Heaven Above"

**C: "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!**

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

I build on this foundation, that Jesus and His blood alone are my salvation, my true, eternal good. without him all that pleases is valueless on earth; the gifts I have from Jesus alone have priceless worth.

~ Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676 A.D.), If God Himself Be for Me

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.

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

"Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella" ... Donna Gartman Schultz

COMMUNION HYMNS

"The First Noel" green hymnal #56

"Away in a Manger" green hymnal #67

"Angels We Have Heard on High" green hymnal #71

Please stand after all have received the sacrament.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

C: Amen

Please light your candles from the aisle candles.

*O my child,
child of sweet-
ness,*

*How is it that
I hold thee,
Almighty?*

*And how that
I feed thee,*

*Who givest
bread to all?*

*How is it that
I swaddle thee,*

*Who with the
clouds encom-
passeth the
whole earth?*

*~ Orthodox
liturgy*

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.

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 Helman

+ **Soli Deo Gloria** +

To God alone be glory

A Prayer As You Go

Gracious
Child, we
pray, O hear
us, from
Your lowly
manger cheer
us, gently
lead us and
be near us till
we join Your
choir above.

Amen.

~ Paul

Gerhardt
(1607-1676
A.D.),

Come,

Your

Hearts and

Voices

Raising

Serving at Worship

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde

Presiding: The Rev. Joseph Pinzl

Assisting: The Rev. Christopher Johnson

Organist: Kantor Irene Beethe

Flutist: Dr. Jacob Roseman

Pianist: Dr. Molly Roseman

Vocalist: Karla Tennant

Elder: Adam Holzschuh

Radio Announcer: Paul Fandrey

Communion Assistant: Rob Kittel

Acolytes: Nathan Contreras; Ella Johnson; Luke Popelka

Altar Guild: Julie Sweeney; Anna Mae Zeinemann

Acknowledgements

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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
click "Listen Live" at www.wsau.com)

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