



**The Nativity of Our Lord 2020**  
**“The Liturgy of the People”**

Zion Lutheran Church  
Wausau, Wisconsin

10:00 a.m.

## **Sharing God's Blessings**

- Tonight's radio broadcast is sponsored by Steve and Marlene Kroening for God's many blessings.
- The fresh evergreen trees by the altar are donated anonymously by a grateful member of Zion. The trees are decorated with *chrismons*, symbols of Christ, hand-made by members of Zion.
- Please refer to the bulletin insert for a listing of all who gave to the Christmas Decorating Fund.

## **Zion's Crèche in the Chapel**

The 19 figures in Zion's crèche represent the first Christmas: The Holy Family, the Shepherds and the Wise Men, the Animals, and the Angel of the Lord. Hand-carved for us by craftsmen in the Black Forest of Oberamergau, Germany, the figures are made from linden wood. They were purchased in New York City in 1964 by Rev. Dale Hansen, former Zion pastor (1961-1974). Mrs. August C. (Ottile) Mueller, a member of Zion, donated the money for the carvings as a gift to the children of the parish. Herbert Ladwig, a Zion parishioner, constructed the wooden stable in 1964.

## **Welcome to the Liturgy of the People**

Starting with afternoon and evening prayer, the ancient worship of Christmas leads us from the starry skies full of angels to Bethlehem and now this, the great culmination for which God did it all: the Liturgy of the People. Yes, God sent His Son for the sake of what happens in this very service: good news is preached, sins are forgiven, and the body and blood of Christ are given and received, full of forgiveness, life, and salvation. What else is there to do but enjoy and give thanks?

## **PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing "	Lloyd Conley
"God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen "	Sondra K. Tucker
"Once in Royal David's City"	Sondra K. Tucker
"Angels We Have Heard on High"	Lloyd Conley

## **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!**

**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!**

*A boy he is,  
but it is God  
who is  
adored. How  
inexpressible  
is the mystery  
of his divine  
honor! The  
invisible and  
eternal na-  
ture did not  
hesitate to  
take on the  
weaknesses of  
the flesh on  
our behalf.  
The Son of  
God, who is  
God of the  
universe, is  
born a human  
being in the  
flesh. He per-  
mits himself  
to be placed  
in the man-  
ger, and the  
heavens are  
within the  
manger...*

**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.!**

## **THE APOSTOLIC 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

### 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 -

... He is kept in a cradle, a cradle that the world cannot hold. He is heard in the voice of a crying infant. This is the same one for whose voice the whole world would tremble in the hour of his passion. Thus he is the One, the God of glory and the Lord of majesty . . . . It is he who while a child was truly God and King. ~ Chromatius, about 400 A.D.

From the moment that the deity and the humanity were united in one person, this man, Mary's son, is (and is rightly called!) the almighty and everlasting God, who has eternal power.  
 ~ the Lutheran Confessions, 1580 A.D.

lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,  
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,  
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men

**SALUTATION and COLLECT**

P: The Lord be with you.

And al-so with you.

P: Let us pray . . . 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.*

**OLD TESTAMENT** Isaiah 52:7-10

<sup>7</sup>How 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." <sup>8</sup>The 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. <sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The 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.**

### GRADUAL

L: 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.  
Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

### EPISTLE Hebrews 1:1-6

<sup>1</sup>Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup>but 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. <sup>3</sup>He 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, <sup>4</sup>having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. <sup>5</sup>For 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"? <sup>6</sup>And 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.*

*It is marvelous that God the Lord prepared our bones and flesh in our mother's womb, but even more marvelous is it that God the Lord Himself was willing to assume flesh of our flesh, bone of our bones. It is great mercy of God that the holy angels were ordained by Him to be of great service to us; but it is an even greater mercy of God that the Lord of all angels, God's Son, was born into the world for our good and to serve us.*

*~ Johann  
Gerhard  
1613 A.D.*

*By becoming man, Christ takes our tainted flesh and blood – “He was made sin” – and transfigures it into God’s flesh and blood – “the Word was made flesh” – and then He returns the same flesh and blood to us in the Sacrament, so that our flesh and blood can be transfigured into His . . .*

## VERSE

L: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia  
The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,  
And we have seen his glory, Glory as of the only  
Son from the Father full of grace and truth.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord, according to St. John, the 14th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## 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.*

*... Something happens in the conception and birth of Jesus: God becomes man. Something happens in the Eucharist: Bread becomes both God and Man, Jesus Christ. And something happens in us when we receive the Eucharist: God becomes one with us through that holy bread that is His body. In Bethlehem, God takes our flesh and blood and is born on earth. In the Eucharist, we eat His flesh and blood and are born in heaven.  
~ Reverend  
David Scaer  
2000 A.D.*

*He is brought forth from the womb but flashes from heaven. He lies in an earthly inn but is alive with heavenly light.  
~ Saint Ambrose, 374 A.D.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"



1. Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice With heart and soul and voice;  
2. Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice With heart and soul and voice;  
3. Good Chris-tian friends, re-joice With heart and soul and voice;



Give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
Now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
Now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



Ox and ass be - fore him bow, And he is in the man - ger now,  
He has o - pened heav - ven's door And we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all To gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

## SERMON "The Light of All"

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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**

**OFFERTORY** "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

*As the pastors prepare the altar for the Holy Supper, music provides a time for worshipers to prepare for the Holy Supper in prayer and thanks.*

L: "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Of the Father's love begotten  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see  
Evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessèd,  
When the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
Bore the Savior of our race,  
And the babe, the world's Redeemer,  
First revealed His sacred face  
Evermore and evermore.

This is He whom seers in old time  
Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets  
Promised in their faithful word.  
Now He shines, the long-expected;  
Let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.

Let the heights of heav'n, adore Him;  
Angel hosts, His praises sing.  
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him  
And extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Ev'ry voice in concert ring  
Evermore and evermore.

*In one sense, the altar is superior to Bethlehem because He who was held in His mother's arms in one place is now seen in bread and eaten by millions of believers everywhere. In the Holy Communion we see the full dimension of what it means that God became a human being. It is no longer a matter of "once upon a time" in one place called Bethlehem, but of what should happen "at all times and in all places" in "giving thanks unto the heavenly Father."*

*~ Reverend David Scaer, 1993 A.D.*

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,  
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
And unending praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory  
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

*Please stand.*

### 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.

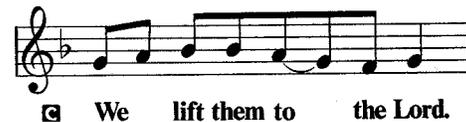
C: **Amen**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.



P: Lift up your hearts.

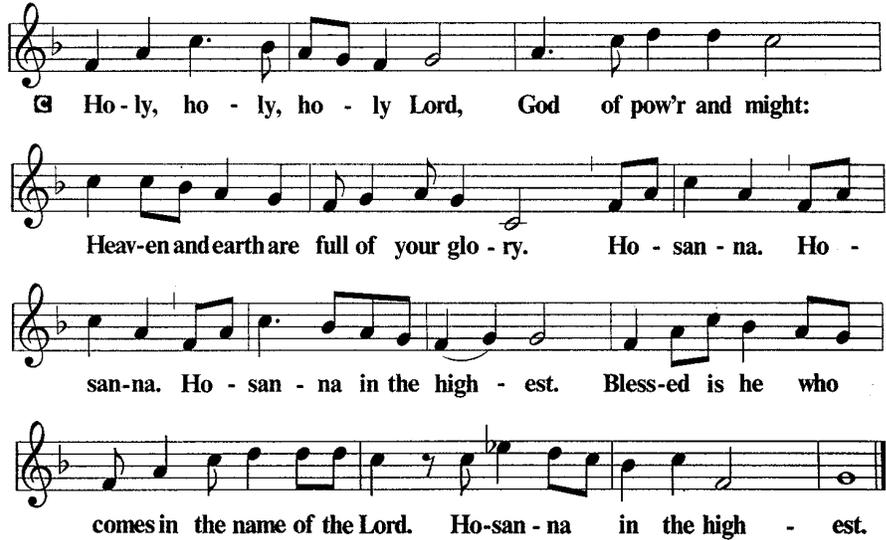


P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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**

*What you see here, dearly beloved, on the table of the Lord is bread and wine; but this bread and wine, when the word is applied to it, becomes the body and blood of the Word. That Lord, you see, who "in the beginning was the Word," was so compassionate that He did not despise what He had created in His own image, and therefore, "the Word became flesh" . . .*

**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 body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you. 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.*

*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**

*The first two hymns will be sung by the choir. The texts are printed for prayerful meditation. Please join to sing "Go Tell it on the Mountain."*

*"Let Our Gladness Have No End"*

Let our gladness have no end, Hallelujah!  
For to earth did Christ descend. Hallelujah! *Refrain*

*Refrain:* 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! *Refrain*

Into flesh is made the Word. Hallelujah!  
He, our refuge and our Lord. Hallelujah! *Refrain*

*"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"*

Infant holy, infant lowly,  
For his bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing,  
Bells are ringing, Tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child is Lord of all!

*(continued on the next page . . . )*

*. . . Yes, the very Word took to Himself a man, that is, the soul and flesh of a man, and became man while remaining God. For that reason, because He also suffered for us, He presented us in this sacrament with His body and blood.  
~ Saint Augustine, around 400 A.D.*

Flocks were sleeping, Shepherds keeping  
 Vigil till the morning new  
 Saw the glory, heard the story,  
 Tidings of a Gospel true.  
 Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
 Praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
 Christ the child was born for you!  
 Christ the child was born for you!

**“Go Tell It on the Mountain”**

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si-lent flocks by night.

2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo, a - bove the earth

3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born:

*Refrain*

Be - hold, through - out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.

Rang out the an-gel cho-rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.

And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

*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

## 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"

**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**

## **A Prayer As You Go**

O Lord, You  
have now fed  
me what  
once lay in  
the manger.  
Keep me  
united with  
you by faith  
in this gift,  
that I may  
commune  
with you  
now and in  
the world to  
come;  
through Jesus  
Christ our  
Lord. Amen

**And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

**POSTLUDE**

*"Festival Flourish on Joy to the World"* ... Jacob B. Weber

**+ Soli Deo Gloria +**  
*To God alone be glory*

**Serving at Worship**

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

**Presiding:** The Rev. Christopher Johnson

**Organist:** Kantor Irene Beethe

**Trumpet:** Chad Premeau

**Choir:** Ivan Beethe; Vicky Radunz;

Cyndi Reuter; Jim Speckhard

**Acolytes:** Ashtyn Fernstaedt; Ethan Hochberger; Ella Johnson

**Elder:** Lynn Budnik

**Radio Announcer:** Dick Ames

**Altar Guild:** Bonnie Waack

## **Acknowledgements**

*The liturgy and hymns are from the Lutheran Book of Worship, © 1978. Old Testament, Epistle and verse 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.*

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful”:* Text and Tune: Public Domain.

*Gradual:* Content from *Lutheran Service Book: Altar Book* copyright © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

*“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”:* Text and Tune: Public Domain.

*“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”:* Text: Public Domain.

*“Let Our Gladness Have No End”:* Text: Lutheran Book of Worship, © 1978.

*“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”:* Text: Lutheran Book of Worship, © 1978.

*“Go Tell It on the Mountain”:* Text and Tune: Public Domain.

*“Joy to the World”:* Text: 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)

**Church Telephone: 715-848-7286**

**Senior Pastor** Steven K. Gjerde  
**Associate Pastor** Christopher S. Johnson  
**Int. Assoc. Pastor** Theodore B. Gulhaugen  
**Kantor** Irene Beethe  
**Office Manager** Pam Gabriel  
**Secretary** Anna Mae Zeinemann  
**Deployed Chaplain** Joseph C. Pinzl

**To contact us by email:**  
[zion@zionlutheranwausau.com](mailto:zion@zionlutheranwausau.com)

**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)