



The Nativity of Our Lord 2022
“The Liturgy of the People”

Zion Lutheran Church
Wausau, Wisconsin

9:00 a.m.

Sharing God's Blessings

- Today's Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Steve & Marlene Kroening in thanksgiving for God's many blessings.
- The Bulletins are sponsored by Lois & Jerry Jarosz in appreciation of the wonderful pastors and staff at Zion.
- 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, handmade 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?

PRELUDE

... Selections by Lloyd Larson

- "Joy to the World"
- "Coventry Carol"
- "Christmas Angels"

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

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

*He lies in swaddling clothes but shines amid the stars. The cradle shows His birth, the stars His dominion.
~ Ambrose of Milan, d. 397 A.D.*

*A baby is coming, bringing a new world order of "justice with righteousness" (Isaiah 9:7). Should we rejoice (9:3) or tremble in our boots?
~ William H. Willimon*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

**C: Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him Born the king of angels;
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**The highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing!
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Child, for us sinners Poor and in the manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love thee, Loving us so dearly?
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God In the highest:
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing;
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.!**

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE

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



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C 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.



C 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.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

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



C A - men.

GLORIA

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



C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and

O Lord, heavenly Father, who, through Your angels, did bid poor shepherds of the field not to fear but rejoice that Christ the Saviour was born: Drive away, we beseech You, all fear from our hearts and stir up in us this true and rightful joy, that, though here on earth we may be despised, miserable, poor, and forlorn . .

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

SALUTATION and COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P: Let us pray . . . Almighty God, you have made yourself known to us in your Son, Jesus, Redeemer of the world. By his birth of the Virgin Mary, set us free from the old slavery of our sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Please be seated.

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.

*. . . we may
nevertheless
be comforted
and rejoice
that we have
Your dear
Son, Christ
our Lord, as
our Saviour,
who for our
sake became
man, that He
might defend
us from death
and evil and
save us for-
ever. Amen
~ Veit
Dietrich,
Kinderpos-
tulle,
1549 A.D.*

Your Savior comes!! No better message, no better gift!! God comes for me! Because Christ comes I am called Holy People, I am called Redeemed of the Lord, I am called sought after. What great news for a world such as ours.

Called redeemed, called sought after, called Holy People, called the Baptized Children of God. What a marvelous gift comes to us in the water of Holy Baptism, what a great gift!! ...

PSALMODY Psalm 98

... Hal Hopson

Choir:



Sing a new song to the Lord, sing a new song,
sing a new song, sing a new song to the Lord.

L: Oh sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done | marvelous things!*

His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salva- | tion for him.

C: **The LORD has made known his sal- | vation;***
he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the | na-
tions.

L: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of | Israel.*
All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation | of our God.

C: **Make a joyful noise to the LORD, | all the earth;***
break forth into joyous song and sing | praises!

Congregation:



Sing a new song to the Lord, sing a new song,
sing a new song, sing a new song to the Lord.

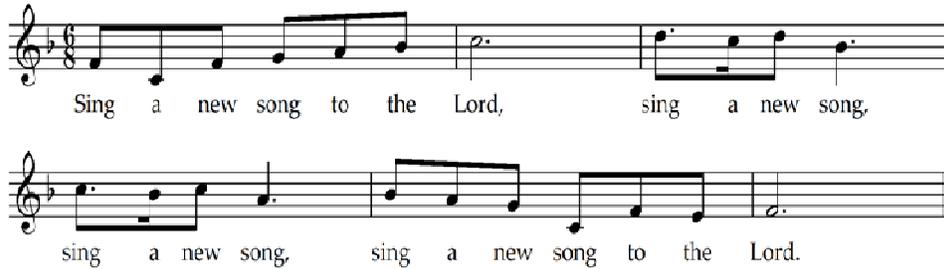
L: Sing praises to the LORD | with the lyre,*
with the lyre and the sound of | melody!

C: With trumpets and the sound | of the horn*
make a joyful noise before the | King, the LORD!

L: Let the sea roar, and all that | fills it;*
the world and those who | dwell in it!

C: Let the rivers clap their hands;
let the hills sing for joy together
be- | fore the LORD,* for he comes
to | judge the earth.

Congregation:



Sing a new song to the Lord, sing a new song,
sing a new song, sing a new song to the Lord.

L: He will judge the world with | righteousness,*
and the peoples with | equity.

All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son,*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen

Congregation:



Sing a new song to the Lord, sing a new song,
sing a new song, sing a new song to the Lord.

... Such a familiar story we read. How many times have we heard it? Is it so familiar that we stop hearing the real importance of it? Have we let it become a comfortable thing that echoes around our sentimental feelings of Christmas? God becomes flesh! God takes our sin, God dies in our place, God wrapped in rags in a place where cattle feed. Glory to God in the Highest!
~ The Rev. Dr. Scott Bruzek, 2002 A.D.

His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature. ~ 2 Peter 1:3-4

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.

VERSE "Let Our Gladness Have No End"



1 Let our glad - ness have no end, al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Proph - e - sied in days of old, al - le - lu - ia!



For to earth did Christ de - scend, al - le - lu - ia!
 God has sent Him as fore - told, al - le - lu - ia!

Refrain



On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save



us; Christ, His Son, to save us.

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel of our Lord, according to St. John, the 1st 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. Alleluia!

VERSE "Let Our Gladness Have No End"



3 See, the love - liest bloom - ing rose, al - le - lu - ia!
4 In - to flesh is made the Word, al - le - lu - ia!



From the branch of Jes - se grows, al - le - lu - ia!
He, our ref - uge and our Lord, al - le - lu - ia!



On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save

*The Son of
God became
man that we
might become
God.*

*~ Athanasius,
d. 373 A.D.*

The angel Gabriel brings the word: "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, etc." (Luke 1:31). With these words Christ comes not only into her heart, but also into her womb, as she hears, grasps, and believes it. No one can say otherwise, than that the power comes through the Word. As one cannot deny the fact that she thus becomes pregnant through the Word, and no one knows how it comes about, so it is in the sacrament also . . .



NICENE CREED

P: Let us confess the faith with one heart:

C: **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

Choir: 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.

Stanza 2 – All High Voices

Stanza 3 – All Low Voices

Stanzas 4 & 5 – All



2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
 3 This is He whom seers in old time Chant - ed of with
 4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
 Δ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, Whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
 Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
 Prom - ised in their faith - ful word. Now He shines, the long - ex -
 And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Ev - er - more and ev - er - more. A - men.

... For as soon as Christ says: "This is My body," His body is present through the Word and the power of the Holy Spirit. If the Word is not there, it is mere bread; but as soon as the words are added they bring with them that of which they speak.

~ Martin Luther, *The Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ - Against the Fanatics*, 1526 A.D.

SERMON "More Yours Than Mary's"

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 "Infant Holy" (*sung by the Choir*) ... Jeffrey Blersch

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**

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.



C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS ("Holy")



C 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."

If we had not inherited sin, the fellowship of nature would move us so much that everyone would love his neighbor as much as he loved himself, because we would all be of one essence, of one blood and of one relationship. A few sparks of that kind of natural attachment still remain . . . [but] would be far brighter, had not the darkness of sin overshadowed it . . .

[continued next page]

... Now
Christ's flesh
is a holy flesh,
which has not
been poisoned
by sin in the
least; that's
why this fire
of love burns
in it brightly
and undark-
ened so that
Christ heart-
ily and pas-
sionately
loves us be-
cause we are
His flesh and
blood.

~ Johann
Gerhard
(1582-1637
A.D.), a
Christmas
sermon

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.

DISTRIBUTION

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 *(sung by all, unless otherwise noted)*

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| "Glad Tidings" <i>(sung by the Choir)</i> | ... Natalie Sleeth |
| "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" | ... LSB #386 |
| "Gentle Mary" | ... LSB #374 |
| "Angels We Have Heard on High" | ... LSB #368 |

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.



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."
~ The Rev. Dr. David Scaer, 1993 A.D.

**A Prayer
As You Go**
 We pray
 Thee, O
 Lord, to pu-
 rify our
 hearts that
 they may be
 worthy to
 become Thy
 dwelling
 place. Let
 us never fail
 to find room
 for Thee, but
 come and
 abide with
 us that we
 also may
 abide in
 Thee, Who
 at this time
 wast born
 into the
 world for
 us, and dost
 live and
 reign, King
 of kings and
 Lord of
 lords, now
 and forever-
 more.
 Amen
 ~ William
 Temple,
 1881-1944
 A.D.

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

RECESSIONAL HYMN "Joy to the World"



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

"Joy to the World"

... Michael Burkhardt

+ Soli Deo Gloria +

To God alone be glory

Serving at Worship

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde

Presiding: The Rev. Christopher S. Johnson

Organist: Kantor Irene Beethe

Musicians: Chad Premeau (*Trumpet*), Mary Premeau (*Violin*),
Kevin Short (*Trumpet*)

Choir: The Zion Kantorei

Radio Announcer: Dick Ames

Lector: Paul Henning

Acolytes: Sarah Gjerde, Anja Oestreich, Tyler Pagel

Communion Assistants: Lois Jarosz, Grace Mueller

Elder: Donna Nuernberg

Ushers: Mark Gehrke, Marlene Kroening, Steve Kroening,
Grace Mueller

Altar Guild: Sally Christoffersen, Pam Hoppe

Acknowledgements

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

“Joy to the World”: 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)

Church Telephone: 715-848-7286

Senior Pastor Steven K. Gjerde
Associate Pastor Christopher S. Johnson
Kantor Irene Beethe
Office Manager Jessica G. Ray
Custodian Cody Augustine
Deployed Chaplain Joseph C. Pinzl
Pastor Emeritus Theodore B. Gulhaugen

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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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