

The Festival of the Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 2022

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. Christmas Day is the festival of the Incarnation: the eternal Son of God was born in time as the son of Mary so that in his flesh he might free us from the bondage of sin. From the beginning, the solution to sin was the flesh and blood of God.

Opening Hymn

Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful CW 55



1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, Oh,
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion;
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, to eath - er he comes,
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n,



Come and be - hold him, Born the King of an - gels.
On - ly be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther.
Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est.
Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

Refrain



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Text: John F. Wade, c. 1711–86; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–80, alt.
Tune: ADESTE FIDELES (Irregular) John F. Wade, c. 1711–86, alt.

Stand

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

Morrison Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran
Synod



Our mission is to

Glorify God

as we

Gather

around the **Gospel**

to help people

Grow

in the **Gospel**

and

Go

with the **Gospel**

Welcome! We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We humbly acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Lord, Have Mercy *Kyrie*

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For the well-being of your church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: Amen

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O Lord, Our Lord



C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in



all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,



you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;



you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and



ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,



but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,



how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.



O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,



you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;

you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the
 King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,
 how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your one and only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

THE WORD

Choir

Christmastime

First Lesson:

Isaiah 52:7-10

The return of Israel from captivity prefigured the work of the Word made flesh who redeemed mankind from sin. The prophecy pictures the watchmen of Jerusalem standing sentinel on the city walls. Suddenly they see messengers descending the mountains that surround Zion. The watchmen shout for joy because the messengers bring news of peace, goodness and rescue: Your God reigns! God is in control and is ruling for his people. He laid bare his holy arm by hiding himself in flesh in order to buy back Jerusalem—not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and his innocent suffering and death. God kept his promise, and all the ends of earth will see his salvation.

⁷ How beautiful on the mountains
 are the feet of those who bring good news,
 who proclaim peace,
 who bring good tidings,
 who proclaim salvation,
 who say to Zion,
 “Your God reigns!”

⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;
 together they shout for joy.
 When the LORD returns to Zion,

they will see it with their own eyes.
 9 Burst into songs of joy together,
 you ruins of Jerusalem,
 for the LORD has comforted his people,
 he has redeemed Jerusalem.
 10 The LORD will lay bare his holy arm
 in the sight of all the nations,
 and all the ends of the earth will see
 the salvation of our God. (NIV)

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 98

ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

Psalm 98, ICEL Lynn Trapp

All the ends of the earth have seen the
 sav - ing pow'r of God. All the ends of the
 earth have seen the sav - ing pow'r of God.

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refrain (choir)

Verse 1: (choir) Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done wondrous deeds, his right hand has won vict'ry for him, his holy arm.

refrain (congregation)

Verse 2: (choir) The Lord has made his salvation known, his justice revealed to the nations, remembering kindness and faithfulness t'ward Israel.

refrain (congregation)

Verse 3: (choir) All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God. Sing joyfully to the Lord all you lands, break into song, sing praise.

refrain (congregation)

Verse 4 (choir)Sing praise to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and melodious song, with trumpets and the sound of the horn sing joyfully to our king.

refrain (congregation)

Second Lesson

Hebrews 1:1-9

The arrival of God in the flesh inaugurated the last age of this earth. In Jesus Christ all the promises God made were kept. In this age of promises kept, God's interaction with mankind fundamentally changed. In the past God sent angels and prophets as messengers to his people. But in these latter days, God sent the One who made the universe and who sustains it by the breath of his mouth. God sent the Son who is the exact representation of God's being and the radiance of his glory. This is the One who came to speak to the people of God. This is the One who took on flesh and blood and became a companion of man—for one purpose: purification of our sins.

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, **2** but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. **3** The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. **4** So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

5 For to which of the angels did God ever say,
“You are my Son;
today I have become your Father”^[Ps 2:7]?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son”^[2 Sa 7:14]?

6 And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,
“Let all God's angels worship him.”^[Dt 32:43]

7 In speaking of the angels he says,
“He makes his angels spirits,
and his servants flames of fire.”^[He 1:7]

8 But about the Son he says,
“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions
by anointing you with the oil of joy.”^[Ps 45:6,7] (NIV)

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law. Alleluia. (Galatians 4:4,5a)

Stand

Gospel

John 1:1-14

John's Christmas story begins in eternity within the Godhead. That the Son is eternally God and that he shared in the creation of the universe only underscores the enormity of his condescension to become man. In a paucity of words Scripture describes the indescribable: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." How shocking that this had to be true! God had to become flesh and blood to be born under law, to suffer, and to die that he might redeem us. God's glory could be seen as he came in grace and truth, in flesh and blood, to give us the right to be children of God.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be Seated

Hymn of the Day

Of the Father's Love Begotten CW 35



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed
 3 This is he whom heav'n - taught sing - ers
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him,
 5 Christ, to you, with God the Fa - ther,



Ere the worlds be - gan to be, He is
 When the vir - gin, full of grace, By the
 Sang of old with one ac - cord; Whom the
 An - gel hosts his prais - es sing, Pow'rs, do -
 And the Spir - it cease - less - ly Hymn and



Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the
 Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bore the Sav - ior
 Scrip - tures of the proph - ets Prom - ised in their
 min - ions bow be - fore him And ex - tol our
 chant and high thanks - giv - ing And un - end - ing



end - ing he, Of the things that are, that
 of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
 faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -
 God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall
 deem - er, First re - vealed his sa - cred
 pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert
 min - ion And e - ter - nal vic - to -



see Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 face Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Lord Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ring Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ry Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–c. 413, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, st. 1-4, alt.; Henry W. Baker, 1821–77, st. 5, alt.

Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM (87 87 877) Plainsong melody, 13th century.

Stand

Nicene Creed

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. 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, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.

Be Seated

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

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

Proper Preface

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. When the time had fully come, he sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

Holy, Holy, Holy



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



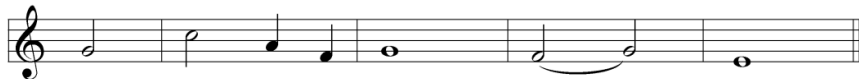
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Be Seated

Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith and warns us against the dangers of not understanding what communion is, we practice close communion. WELS members are welcome to commune with us. Visitors, please speak with the pastor before communing. If you would like to learn more about communing with us in the future, please contact pastor.

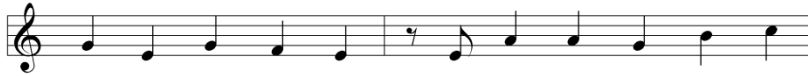
Distribution

Distribution Hymn

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come CW 38



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
 3 "This is the Christ, our God most high, Who hears your
 4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by
 5 "These are the signs which you shall mark: The swad - dling



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad ti - dings of great joy
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of low -
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will him - self your Sav -
 God for all be - low, That in his king - dom, bright
 clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the in -



I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
 ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
 ior be From all your sins to set you free.
 and fair, You may with us his glo - ry share,
 fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>6 How glad we'll be to find it so!
 Then with the shepherds let us go
 To see what God for us has done
 In sending us his own dear Son.</p> | <p>7 Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
 And see what in the manger lies.
 Who is this child, so young and fair?
 It is the Christchild lying there.</p> |
| <p>8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
 Through whom the sinful world is blest!
 You came to share my misery
 That you might share your joy with me.</p> | <p>9 Ah, Lord, though you created all,
 How weak you are, so poor and small,
 That you should choose to lay your head
 Where lowly cattle lately fed!</p> |
| <p>10 Were earth a thousand times as fair
 And set with gold and jewels rare,
 It would be far too poor and small
 A cradle for the Lord of all.</p> | <p>11 Instead of soft and silken stuff
 You have but hay and straw so rough
 On which as King, so rich and great,
 To be enthroned in royal state.</p> |
| <p>12 And so it pleases you to see
 This simple truth revealed to me:
 That all the world's wealth, honor, might
 Are weak and worthless in your sight.</p> | <p>13 Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
 Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled
 Within my heart, made clean and new,
 A quiet chamber kept for you.</p> |
| <p>14 My heart for very joy must leap;
 My lips no more can silence keep.
 I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
 That sweetest ancient cradle song:</p> | <p>15 Glory to God in highest heaven,
 Who unto us his Son has given!
 While angels sing with pious mind
 A glad new year to all the earth.</p> |

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: VOM HIMMEL HOCH (LM) Schumann, *Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert*, Leipzig, 1539.

Stand

Thank The Lord



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud - ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

M: Hear the prayers of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son, may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World CW 62



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And



earth re - ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry
 all their songs em - ploy, While fields and
 thorns in - fest the ground; He comes to
 makes the na - tions prove The glo - ries



heart pre - pare him room And heav'n and
 floods, rocks, hills, and plains Re - peat the
 make his bless - ings flow Far as the
 of his right - eous - ness And won - ders



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



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

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Tune: ANTIOCH (CM with Repeat) George F. Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.