



**MORRISON
ZION
LUTHERAN**
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
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.

December 25, 2024
Christmas Day Festival: The Nativity of our Lord



God Gives Himself as One of Us

Have you ever opened a Christmas present and had to ask, “What is it?” Perhaps it was some new type of technology or perhaps a unique toy. You were grateful for the gift, but also not 100% certain what you were looking at. “What is it?” Today, as we look into the manger, we ask that question. In this case, the question is not quickly or easily answered. It requires both deep thought and humble awe. We are looking at the same God who once told the prophet Moses, “No one may see me and live.” Yet, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds all saw their holy God and survived. How? God became human, hiding his glory within our flesh, so that he might come to us without instilling fear or dread.

“What is it?” This gift is God and man in one person, exactly what humanity needed to deliver us from our greatest enemies: sin, death, and Satan. On the Festival of Christmas, we thank God for this greatest of gifts.

Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith (1 Corinthians 10:17) and warns there are dangers in taking communion in an improper way (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), we practice close communion. WELS, ELS, and members of other churches around the world who are in fellowship with WELS are welcome to commune with us. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member and communing with us in the future, please speak to pastor or an usher.

Preservice

O Christmas Carols
Listen to the Season

Band

Choir

Great news! Great joy! Great Light shining on the world!
Great day! Great hope! There's a great Light shining on the world.
There's a great Light shining on the world.

Shepherds lift your voice on high, go proclaim to ev'ryone
Your redemption draweth nigh, the Messiah now has come.
People of the world rejoice, let the celebration start.
Come and make a joyful noise, God has sent to us His heart.

Glory to God, glory in the highest.
Glory to God, let the song begin
Glory to God, glory in the highest,
Come and join the great amen.

Great news! Great joy! Great Light shining on the world!
Great day! Great hope! There's a great Light shining on
the world.
There's a great Light shining on the world.

Angel Celebration

Stand

M: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

C: those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. (Isaiah 9:2)

M: This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:

C: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. (1 John 1:5)

M: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

C: We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son,

M: who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

1 Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
he the source, the end - ing he,

of the things that are, that have been,
and that fu - ture years shall see 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.

Confession

- M: If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness,
C: we lie and do not live out the truth. (1 John 1:6)
- M: If we claim to be without sin,
C: we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. (1 John 1:8)
- M: If we claim we have not sinned
C: we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:10)
- M: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and
C: He will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)
- M: You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command:
C: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Galatians 5:13-15)
- M: If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.
 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, [sexual sins], and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:19-21)
- C: When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin.** (Psalm 32:3-5)

Absolution

M: This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love:

C: **not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.** (1 John 4:9-10)

M: He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:2)

C: **God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

M: For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

(2 Corinthians 5:21, 14-15)

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:1-2)

2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the vir - gin,
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him, an - gel hosts his
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
prais - es sing, pow'rs, do - min - ions bow be - fore him
bore the Sav - ior of our race,
and ex - tol our God and King.
and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,
Let no tongue on earth be si - lent,
first re - vealed his sa - cred face ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

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

First Lesson

Exodus 33:18–23; 34:5–7

To reveal himself to us, God hid himself in human flesh. To reveal himself to Moses, God hid Moses within the cleft of a mountain.

¹⁸Then Moses said, “Now show me your glory.”¹⁹And the Lord said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. ²⁰But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”

²¹Then the Lord said, “There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. ²²When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen.”

⁵Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord. ⁶And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.” (NIV)

Acknowledgments

Angel Celebration

By Carlton Dillard and Michael Barrett

1996 GlorySound and Malcolm Music (division of Shawnee Press)

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Text: John W. Work II, 1873–1925, verses, alt.; African American spiritual, refrain

Tune: African American spiritual

Text and tune: Public domain

Let Us All with Gladsome Voice

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; German, 17th cent

Tune: Ander Theil Des Dreszdenischen GesangBuchs, Dresden, 1632, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

Psalm of the Day

All the Ends of the Earth Psalm 98a CW

Refrain



All the ends of the earth have seen the pow-er of God.



All the ends of the earth have seen the pow-er of God.

Tone



Sing to the LORD a / new song,

for he has done / marv'lous things;

his right hand and his / holy arm

have worked salvation / for him.

The LORD has made his sal- / vation known

and revealed his righteousness to the / nations. *Refrain*

Shout for joy to the LORD, / all the earth,

burst into jubilant song with / music.

Let the rivers / clap their hands,

let the mountains sing together / for joy;

let them sing be- / fore the LORD,

for he comes to / judge the earth.

He will judge the world in / righteousness

and the peoples with / equity.

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. *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen; David Hass Tune: Marty Haugen; David Hass Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

Text and tune: © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc. (refrain). Used by permission: OneLicense no. 725297

Setting: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 725297

Second Lesson

Romans 8:31–32

If the Father was willing to give us the gift of his only Son, clearly there is no good thing he would withhold from us.

³¹What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? (NIV)

Verse of the Day

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

Stand

Gospel

John 1:1-18

In Jesus the God whose glory is impossible to see is seen. The God who cannot be known is known.

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.

¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

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

Hymn of the Day

Go, Tell It on the Mountain CW 361



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 low - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born,



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.

Stand

Create in Me

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Be Seated

Offering

Angels We Have Heard on High *Band*

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.

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

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

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

Proper Preface

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for in the wonder and mystery of his birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n 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, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 (1 Corinthians 10:17) and warns there are dangers in taking communion in an improper way (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), we practice close communion. WELS, ELS, and members of other churches around the world who are in fellowship with WELS are welcome to commune with us. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member and communing with us in the future, please speak to pastor or an usher.

Questions for Personal Preparation for Holy Communion are located on p.16 of this service folder.

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing CW 350



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness!



peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

Refrain



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847

Text and tune: Public domain



Distribution Hymn

Angels from the Realms of Glory CW 347



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing
 3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing
 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the



flight o'er all the earth; once you sang cre -
 o'er your flocks by night, God with us is
 vi - sions beam a - far; seek the great de -
 long in hope and fear, sud - den - ly the
 Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your



a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant light.
 sire of na - tions, you have seen the Sav - ior's star.
 Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear.
 voic - es rais - ing to th'e - ter - nal Three in One.



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship,



wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text (sts. 1-3): James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.; (st. 4): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, alt.
 Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879
 Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High CW 346



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - - -



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, 1862, alt.; French
Tune: French Text and tune: Public domain

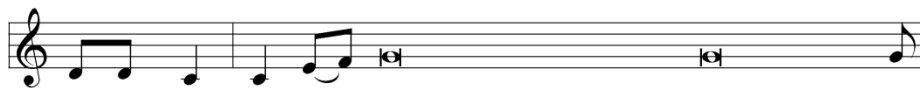
THANKSGIVING

Stand

Song of Simeon



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac - cord - ing



to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre -

pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Benediction

M: 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

Let Us All with Gladsome Voice CW 332

- 1 Let us all with glad - some voice praise the God of heav - en,
- 2 To this vale of tears he comes, here to serve in sad - ness,
- 3 We are rich, for he was poor; is not this a won - der?
- 4 Christ, our Lord and Sav - ior dear, bless us and be near us.

who, to bid our hearts re - jice, his own Son has giv - en.
that with him in heav'n's fair homes we may reign in glad - ness.
There - fore praise God ev - er - more here on earth and yon - der.
Grant us now a glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us.

Announcements

Choir

This Child, sent from heaven, this Child, Emmanuel,
This Child, He is with us, among us to dwell.
This Child, Son of heaven, this Child, Prince of Peace;
This Child, born of Mary, the angels would sing!
This Child is Jesus! He's the Son of the living God!
Born a Child, a King, with light to all He brings,
This Child, the Lord of all!

This Child

This Child, our Savior, This Child is born a King.
This Child, our Redeemer, His praises we sing!
This Child is Jesus!
He's the Son of the living God!
Born a Child, a King, with light to all He brings,
This Child, the Lord of all!

By Mary McDonald
2013 Lorenz Publishing Company

PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: *He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: *I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: *I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: *His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: *In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: *I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: *I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.